

SOCCER

WEEKLY

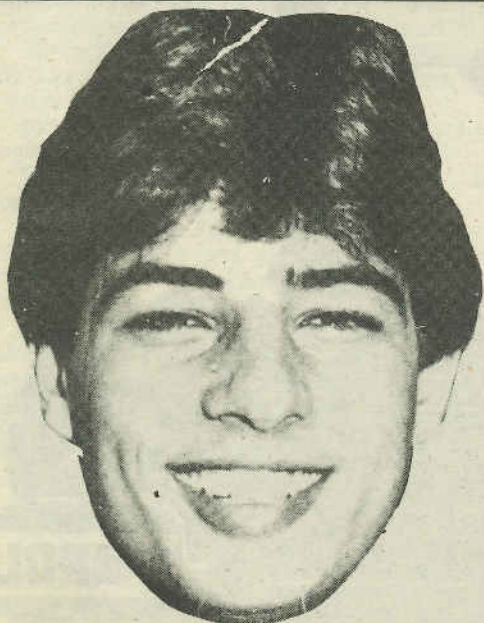
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Aussies set to tame Kiwis

Australia's star players are itching to take bitter revenge on New Zealand in the forthcoming two internationals — See their views on Page 16.

Fresh hope for game young 'Roos

Following their disappointing defeat against Israel, the Young Australians bounced back into contention with a magnificent and gutsy 3-1 win over hosts Costa Rica Monday morning, Sydney time. A win over Israel in the return match on Thursday would give the Aussies a 50-50 chance of making the finals in Mexico. See stories inside.



Licata

Rogers joins Vic State outfit



Bill Rogers, (centre) the surprise recall to Rudi Gutendorf's national team in 1981, has left South Melbourne to join Juventus. This and scores of other Victorian items on pages 9-10.



Tony Henderson who will be one of the key players of the Australian team in the matches against New Zealand in February

INSIDE

• NSL SURVEY

We have placed the 16 NSL clubs under a microscope to find out how they prepare for the season—see our four-page report.

• SAN JOSE...

Tommy Anderson reports on the exploits and battles of the Young Socceroos in faraway Costa Rica.

• AMPOL CUP

Yes, 'the' Cup has started in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide and inside you can follow the fortunes of the teams from this week.

• RICH PRIZES

A big-prize contest is announced for youngsters in our extensive two-page Junior segment.

• U.S. RIDDLE

Can the Americans REALLY meet the challenge of holding the 1986 soccer World Cup—without having any proper soccer stadiums? This and many other stories from overseas in our special two-page section.

• THE STATES

Stories, reports and news from Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Newcastle, Wollongong and...have we left anybody out?

STATE LEAGUE REPORTS

State League clubs tool up

By John Economos

Melita poised for honors

Exciting things could be happening out Melita's way this year.

Melita Eagles expect to be at full strength this season to give the title a very good shake under their new coach, Raul Blanco who was signed up from Sydney City during the off-season.

Melita has started pre-season training under the guidance of assistant coach, Dennis Hoggart, whilst Blanco is away in Costa Rica with the Australian Youth team.

Melita's squad looks good at this stage with all lines fully covered with some excellent, well-experienced playing staff.

Having finished fifth last season in the championship, 8 points behind the leaders, Melita looks very well equipped to also give the title a decent shake.

Starting with their goalkeeper, they have an experienced man in Alex McPherson and this year as back-up 'keeper, they will have the youthful, but highly talented Brett Beves who was a little unlucky to just miss out on the Australian Youth team for the WYC in 1981.

Solid look

Led by club captain, Mickey Cross from the left-back position (formerly from Sydney Olympic), the defence has a solid look about it with Australian

Youth team member, sweeper, Paul Daley, Bobby McGinn and the very skilful Bobby McPherson covering the right flank.

The 'gear-box' looks well served with highly experienced operators in the form of former Ipswich and Sydney Olympic star, Alex Jamieson (due for a big season this year), Melita's favourite son, Ray Farrugia and newly signed left-back from Leichhardt, the highly experienced Col McAusland.

Up front, their firing power looks quite satisfactory as well with players of the calibre of Donny Allen, John McKie, the exceptionally talented and most dangerous Ernie Campbell.

Muniz likely

Trialing with the Eagles but still not signed, are Agenor Muniz from PSL champions, Sydney City, plus former St George flank player-cumdefender, Dennis Duarte, a colourful and most exciting player on his day.

Further good news is the possible new signing of an English centre-back or midfielder, Lance Chamberwell.

In trial match recently against Yugal, Melita defeated the 'Blues' 3-1. Scores for Melita were Allen, McKie and Chamberwell, whilst for Yugal, newly signed striker from Sydney



Jamieson

Olympic, Chris Townsend notched up their solitary goal.

As I said before, big things are expected from midfielder Jamieson who looks in good form so early in the year, plus Bobby McPherson and Johnny McKie.

McKie, however, will leave Melita this week for a couple of weeks as he heads for the UK to sign 'another contract' with his childhood sweetheart, and thus relinquish his bachelor status.

New South Wales AMPOL CUP

By David Jack

Peter Thorne, Blacktown Demons secretary, was a happy man after his team beat Manly Warringah in the first round of the NSW Ampol Cup at Melita Stadium — even though the score was only 1-0.

It was a match which should have yielded a more convincing victory for Blacktown because Manly were disorganised — particularly in the second half when Demons took command and Manly's front line ceased to function.

Irishman Paul Kirwan, who broke an arm playing against Manly last year, took his revenge on the Seaside by piercing the defence several times and scoring the only goal of the game with a penalty kick seven minutes from full-time.

There was no reciprocation from Manly's strikers and potential match-winner Terry Smith looked sluggish.

Kuringai, still basking in the glory of an excellent 1982 season which brought them promotion, were brought down to earth in the first round of the NSW Ampol Cup at Melita Stadium.

Kuringai, despite the incentive of an early lead — when Clive Eaton scored in the sixth minute — lost to Polonia 2-1 in a contest as close as the score indicates.

Eaton's good shot to open the scoring revived memories of this player's days at Wests and Sydney Olympic but a lob from Henry Sobczyk five minutes later made the

score 1-1.

Sobczyk supplied the winning goal with a penalty two minutes before half-time.

MONARO'S PROBLEMS

By Keith Gilmour

Inter Monaro, 4-2 losers to a superior Riverwood at Melita Stadium on Saturday night, were two goals down in the first 15 minutes due to lack of knowledge of the new rule affecting goalkeepers.

Then 13 minutes later John Davies slipped his freekick to David Smith, who hammered home a left-foot drive.

At the end of the first half Riverwood's Andy Tracey and Peter Butcher both hit the post, and later Parker had a goal disallowed. These events provided a sign of things to come.

Barry Walker scored a superb goal — a first-timer on the turn from Terry Jones' pass, and then Parker netted his second right on fulltime after both Walker and Jones had assisted.

AVALA MAULED

Sutherland soccer Sharks ferociously tore into Avala in the second half at Melita Stadium on Saturday night, even though they had only one week's training behind them. From 2-2 at halftime the count went to a final 4-2.

Sutherland dominated in the second half, with replacement Gary Knowles scoring twice and Shane Clinch and Jimmy Webber collecting one apiece.

MATCH FACTS

Blacktown v Manly 1-0 (0-0)

BLACKTOWN: Freeman, Wheatley, Rasmussen, Turnbull, Pointer, Brogan, Quarmby, Welbourne (McLaglan 49 mts), Lumsdaine, Batten (Larkin 64 mts), Kirwan.

MANLY: Ellis, Geoghegan, Doyle, Dick, Falconer (K), Noble, Jones, Falconer (P), Smith, Van Helden, Jack (Hiscock 56 mts).

GOALS: 1-0 Blacktown (73 mts).

REFEREE: A. Morrison. CROWD: 1,150.

Polonia v Kuringai 2-1 (2-1)

POLONIA: Steltenpool, Pritchard, Geekie, Lasek, Galas, Cieslik, Thomas, Garlovski, Ortega, Sobczyk, Smith.

KURINGAI: Antman, Jesse, Duke, Leak, Mortlock (Robertson 40 mts), Williamson (Lewis 70 mts), Hanley, Davidson, Eaton, Regan, Seach.

GOALS: 0-1 Eaton (6 mts), 1-1 Sobczyk (11 mts), 2-1 Sobczyk (38 mts).

REFEREE: N. Condon. CROWD: 1,150 (D-header)

RIVERWOOD V INTER MONARO 4-0 (2-0)

RIVERWOOD: Lachowicz, Mikas, Forrester, Butcher, Cootes, Smith (Mickovski 50m), Parker, Davies, Tracey, Walker, Jones.

MONARO: Caputo (Curcich 41m), Charles (sent off), Chico, Santolin, Francis, Popovic, Monterosso, Castaneda, Valeri, Leith, Djordjeski.

GOALS: 1-0 Parker (2m), 2-0 Smith (15m), 3-0 Walker (61m), 4-0 Parker (80m).

REFEREE: R. Doenau — Crowd: 400 (double-header)

AVALA V SUTHERLAND 2-4 (2-2)

AVALA: Ahrens, Lembyrk, Deller, Barton, McKenzie, Milne, Antic (Brown 45m), Kodor, Tilt (Rodriguez 41m), Fernandez, Karanfilovski.

SUTHERLAND: Haynes, Cashman, Hesford, Scharfegger, Dal Forno, Walkins, Harrington, Webber, Bush (Knowles 27m), Clinch, Rogers.

GOALS: 1-0 Lembyrk (8m), 1-1 Clinch (17m), 2-1 Kodor (21m), 2-2 Knowles (37m), 2-3 Knowles (49m), 2-4 Webber (65m).

REFEREE: R. Lorenc — Crowd: 400 (double-header)



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Confidentially...

Brian Northcote, the Adelaide City strongman — midfielder who had a cruel 1982 season with a back injury which eventually put him off the field, is bursting to star again.

Close-season work on the injury and special training has him running the full 90 minutes instead of 45 he used to make last year, when his back gave out in every match.

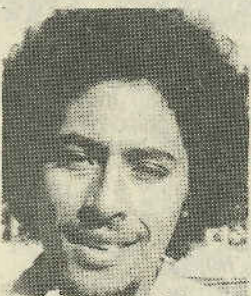
★ ★ ★

Tony Brennan, West Adelaide's rugged midfielder may be back in action before the NSL season kicks off.

Following a recent nose operation he was told not to train until February, but he started last month and has even managed a trial match with no repercussions.

He had difficulty breathing last season and was ordered to have an

operation which couldn't be done until after Christmas.



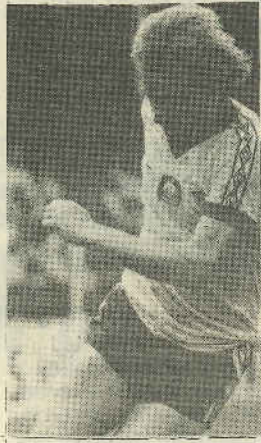
★ ★ ★

New Zealand international defender Ricky Herbert has quickly settled into Sydney Olympic's defence. The only fly in the ointment is that he will be unavailable when New Zealand's international matches come along. He arrived with the club on a free transfer and Olympic will do the right thing and

make him available to play for the Kiwis.

★ ★ ★

Australia's most experienced defender Tony Henderson is determined to see the Socceroos succeed against New Zealand in the coming internationals. He believes that it is a good omen that any lingering doubts over midfielders Peter Katholos and Peter Raskopoulos being available have been dispelled.



Young David Doorne, who had just started to make a name for himself in midfield last season, will not be in the early Ampol Cup line-ups for West Adelaide.

First he "did" an ankle in training; then when he resumed, he was hit by a virus which had him in bed for days and recuperating on his feet later.

Back he went to training and the other ankle got a knock which put him out again.

An interesting newcomer at training with Wollongong City is Grant Isedale, who comes from a well-known Illawarra soccer family. Isedale has been a key player with Fernhill playing at right fullback and strangely he has been one of the team's most consistent goal-getters. Apart from being a very talented penalty-taker, Isedale also has speed and burn when he overlaps and has scored some fine goals from long range.

★ ★ ★

Wollongong's fund-raising campaign is not meeting with universal approval. This was the Sydney Morning Herald's comment last Friday on page 1.



MR LAURIE KELLY, Labor MP for Corimal, has been, for almost seven years, Speaker of the NSW Parliament. He is also chairman of Wollongong City Soccer Club which last year won through to the finals of its competition. As such, Mr Kelly might be expected to lead an appeal for funds among those likely to wish the club well during the coming season. But what has caused some surprise is his letter asking for support. It is on formal parliamentary writing paper bearing Mr Kelly's title "The Speaker," and Australia's coat of arms embossed in gold.

The name of Arno Bertogana has the right Italian connotations to play for the Leichhardt club. Whilst the name is Italian, Arno's mother was of German background. This fine defender is himself a West Australian from Perth, who has appeared in the colors of the clubs of Australia's two top traditional soccer cities of Newcastle and Wollongong. And regular Australian representation might not be far away for him.

When Sydney City Slickers signed Peter Vale from Manly Warringah three years ago, they allowed Terry Smith to join the State League club in part exchange. This year, Vale has returned to Manly — where he's playing alongside Terry Smith. Seems the Seasideers got the better of this deal.

• Fiasco or just a scandal?

Grand Final was not that grand

"A few more Grand Final wins and we go broke," a St George official declared at the weekend.

The Saints are now in the midst of a dispute with the NSL over their share of the takings from the 1982 Top Four series.

Indeed, a "quiet and somewhat discreet" inquiry is being conducted into some "irregularities" concerning the financial arrangements.

It is alleged that accounts and receipts for the Sydney City v St George Final have been "lost" by a responsible official.

Later he reported the taking as "about \$40,000," relying on memory.

But worse was to come in the Grand Final staged at Penrith and, it seems, organised and supervised by nobody.

The gate takings were "officially" reported as just over \$11,000. However, \$1,000 of this simply vanished between counting and lodgment with a bank.

Then recently the two clubs involved, St George and Sydney City, received an accounting of expenses.

Odd reception

The sum of \$1,700 was deducted for a "reception" which nobody authorised and was thought to be given by the Penrith Leagues Club, free.

A further \$1,200 was lost to a bus company which provided coaches for some mysterious passengers.

Not for the two clubs involved, either — as they had arranged special buses for their own teams and fans.

Two radio stations were allegedly paid \$300 and \$800 for pre-match advertising — though there is no receipt for the larger sum.

And that is how the original gross takings of \$11,400 melted down.

The final result? St George won the match — and lost the financial battle.

Their share from the Grand Final was a measly cheque for \$760 — yes, just over seven hundred dollars — and from the three matches in the series \$2,200.

It's strange that such sloppy management was allowed in the PSL; it's even stranger that an organisation with a treasurer, management committee and other supervisory bodies can condone such happenings.

It's good to hear that St George are disputing the accounts.

It's also pleasing that an inquiry is being conducted. But it shouldn't be a "quiet and discreet" one. After all, public money is involved, not to mention the often overlooked integrity of the code.

The Australian Youth Team in their second match, cruised to a magnificent victory over host nation, Costa Rica with a 3-1 win.

The Australians, angered by their defeat at the hands of Israel last week, bounced back with tremendous vigor and were led by their champion midfielder, Jimmy Patikas who was easily the best performer on the pitch.

In fact it was Patikas who busted through in the 8th minute to crash home Australia's first goal and Australia went to a 2-0 lead in the 23rd minute when David Lowe scored.

After all the tension that had hit the young Australian side with the excessive security measures that they have had to live under since arriving here, Australia was far more composed and set about destroying their opponents with a vengeance.

Australia bounced back full of fight even though they had to put up with some strange interpretations from the Italian referee officiating the match.

Great fighting spirit was shown by the Australians, in particular from Patikas, captain, Tommy McCulloch and David Lowe.

Much bad feeling has developed between the Australian camp and Israel. On the other hand, the young Australians have become very popular with the Costa Rican fans.

Next Tuesday's return match between Australia and Israel promises to be a

grudge game with no holds barred.

If Australia is to deny Israel a place in the World Youth Cup finals in Mexico next June, she must win her remaining matches and score plenty of goals.

In the 53rd minute left midfielder Fabio Incantalupo suffered a minor ankle injury and Australia's coach, Les Scheinflug replaced him with Queensland striker, Danny Wright.

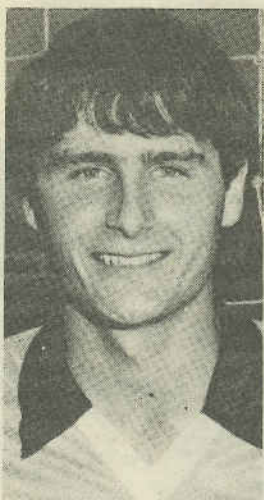
In defeating Costa Rica, Australia hurled wave after wave of fast attacking football that had the home nation down on her knees. The pressure was not released till the final whistle.

In fact the final scoreline flattered Costa Rica and they were very lucky to escape a severe hiding from the Australians.

Jimmy Patikas seems to be getting better with every game he plays. He is dominant in attack and off-the-ball is a tower of strength in defensive work.

Australia's co-ordination at the moment is almost perfect and it would be a tragedy if we miss out on the final.

Australia's first match against Israel produced a disappointing 3-1 defeat.



Tommy McCulloch.

Morale at the moment in the Australian camp is sky-high.

AUSTRALIA: Hummel, Maier, Vliestra, McCulloch, Jones, Salvo, Patikas, Incantalupo (Wright 53rd), Lowe, Brown, Farina.

This was the match Australia had to win to get off to a good start — and this was the occasion the Young 'Roos picked to give their weakest display for months.

From the start, the more experienced and much more robust Israelis dictated terms with Australia forced to accept a passive role.

Jim Patikas, the playmaker of the Australian team, was closely marked and harassed throughout the 90 minutes, thus cutting the team's main supply line.

The outcome of the game was quickly decided in the second half. In the first minute Israel's Rafael Cohen pounced on a loose ball and opened the scoring.

Then — another terrible mess in the Australian defence Ray Vliestra lost a square pass from Tommy McCulloch and Israel were two goals up.

The Young 'Roos, however, fought back gallantly and in the 64th minute Rod

Brown finished off a great build-up by Licata and Incantalupo.

Nine minutes from the end Brown could have got a second one but missed an open goal with his header.

Israel's third goal came from a quick counter-attack, ending all hopes for Australia.

The Australian defence lacked any cohesion and confidence in this game while up front Lowe and Brown struggled on without any real midfield support.

This was the Australian team.

Hummel, Maier, McCulloch, Vliestra, Jones, Patikas, Salvo, Incantalupo, Lowe, Brown, Farina (Licata).

Two days later, Israel easily beat Costa Rica 2-0.

Once the Israelis scored the home side, much to the shock of the 25,000 partisan fans, caved in.

So after the first two matches in the tournament Israel had four points, Australia and Costa Rica none.



Bugsy Nyskohus may be in the veteran class of 33, but the Adelaide City defender shattered younger team-mates at a recent training session.

He outlasted everyone in a stamina trial set by coaches Johnny Perin and Bobby Ferguson.

★ ★ ★

The name Bayutti is synonymous with Australian soccer at club, State and national levels. Jim Bayutti, of course, was the man behind the foundation of Sydney's famous Apia club and was president of that club for many years. He was also president of the NSW Soccer Federation and vice-president of the Australian Federation. Now Jim's son Paul Bayutti is following in his footsteps. Paul has been appointed soccer secretary of the Sydney City Slickers.

NATIONAL LEAGUE PREVIEW

1. What results can the club expect in '83?
2. What's the stability of the club?
3. What are the changes in the squad?



Peter Laumets

1 Discipline is the key word at Middle Park since the arrival of their new manager-coach, Rale Rasic.

Rasic has set some tough guidelines for his players and expects everyone to abide by them.

"South Melbourne is the club of Australia," he stresses, "and I am not willing to tolerate behaviour which I consider being detrimental to the reputation of the club."

Discipline alone is not enough for the materialisation of his plans to lead South Melbourne to the top and Rasic claims he is aware of that.

"To lift South Melbourne to the Top Four is my aim," Rasic says.

"South Melbourne has lived in the past for too

long, and I intend to create new history. We have as much potential as the established leaders of the competition, and we are determined to challenge their superiority.

"The arrival of some talented players at Middle Park has increased our expectations, and I feel certain that we will be up there with the leaders.

"South Melbourne has never had any problems, in spite of its ups and downs in the National League.

"Its loyal supporters are always willing to contribute the extra dollar to help the club achieve its goals. In addition the club receives considerable help from our sponsors, Barbaresso Oyo. Social activities organised by the Social Club and the Supporters Club,

STH MELBOURNE

New regime

throughout the year, supplement the income of the Club.

"Administratively, the club is equally stable."

2 Sam Papasavas's successor, Leo Anezakis, is an experienced administrator who enjoys the respect and the support of his committee. Most members of my committee have been associated with the game for a number of years, and their approach is fully professional.

"My players are also

professional in their approach. They are all devoted, hard working individuals, with an increased sense of responsibility to the club and its members."

3 Following a detailed evaluation of his players, Rasic gave first priority to his midfield.

Kenny Murphy, a talented midfielder, from Melbourne Croatia, was his first recruit. Alongside Allan Davidson and Kiwi international Steve Wooddin, Murphy is destined to play

a key role in South's campaign for the championship title.

Australia's finest defender, Bobby Russell, was also recruited, from Adelaide City, for an alleged fee of \$12,000.

Youth international Oscar Crino, is awaiting the approval of his Hong-Kong club to finalise his transfer to South Melbourne.

According to Rasic the player has agreed with the club, and has been training with them.

1 Heidelberg United are set to renew their bid for a top four position in the ensuing season.

New manager-coach Ken Morton is adamant his team will keep up with the tradition of being Victoria's most successful National League team.

Morton took charge of the team last November, following Len McKendry's shock departure and predicts a great season for his team.

"I am looking forward to a tremendous season," says Morton.

"The club has the material, the money and the support it needs to assume a leading role in the championship. The acquisition of established players for some of our key positions

has increased our chances of finishing the season on top.

"The Ampol Cup is our first priority. This time we are determined not to let it slip through our hands, like we did last year. We have completed the first stage of our preparation and I am pleased with the response of the boys.

"New and old players have combined very well and I am certain we will surprise our opponents."

2 Stability, has been Heidelberg's striking feature.

Club president Sam Gouloupoulos attributes their success to the stability which has prevailed over the years.

"Stability has always



Jamie Paton

HEIDELBERG

Profit made

been the distinct feature of my club. There is a perfect understanding and co-operation between my committee and the players, unique in soccer organisations," says Morton.

"We have our own facilities at Heidelberg and plan to improve them in the coming years.

"Heidelberg recorded a healthy profit of \$52,000 dollars, last season, in addition to the expenses of establishing Olympic Vil-

lage as future home for the Bergers."

3 Former Partick Thistle forward Derek Lee, was the first arrival at Heidelberg.

A prolific goal scorer, Lee, scored 100 goals for Thistle, in three years of prime competition, before stepping down to the Central Scottish League.

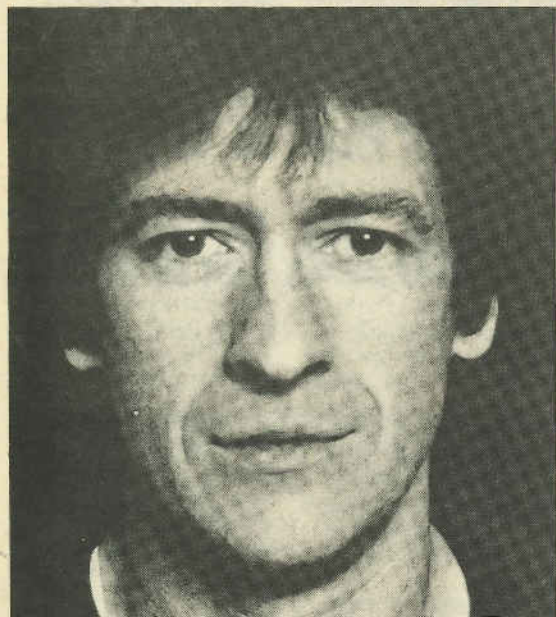
Other newcomers are John Spanos, of Sydney City, and Ian McKie, formerly, of West Adelaide.

Former English Youth international Robert Vincent, is another valuable recruit.

Vincent, 21, played 22 games with Sutherland and is certain to win a place in Heidelberg's crowded midfield.

Young goalkeeper Spyro Kardamitsis, will fill the vacancy, left by Jack Reilly.

Kardamitsis was recruited from State League Club Northcote City, to serve as understudy to Jeff Olver



GEORGE McMILLAN

1 A dramatic change of fortunes in the Preston camp has spread optimism for a great season.

The return of some key players, until recently lost to the club, has restored the smiles on everybody's face.

Richard Wilson, Allan Whittle, Isaac Farrell and Doug Brown are back training with Preston, and coach Peter Ollerton is beaming with enthusiasm.

"We are looking forward to a tremendous season," says a confident Ollerton.

"We now have a full squad, almost the same as last year, and we consider ourselves among the contenders for a top position.

"I am not expecting to win the Ampol Cup, because of our early problems. We will fight, how-

ever, and if we win it will be an added bonus. In fact, the Ampol Cup is the ideal competition for the evaluation of my players, because of the participation of the other National League teams."

2 Have these early problems affected the stability of the club?

"Not in the least," says Ollerton.

"Preston is one of the strongest and most stable clubs in the competition, professionally managed by a team of experts.

"Financially, we are stronger than a lot of clubs in the National League and administratively more stable than few of the others.

"My players are very well looked after and enjoy a

happy relationship with the committee and our unique supporters."

3 In spite of his early problems, Ollerton did not panic.

The only additions to his squad are Alex Livingston and Branko Jakov.

Livingston plays for Albion Rovers in Scotland, and Jakov is a star player with Vardar Skopje.

Both players are due to arrive in Australia within the next fortnight.

PRESTON

Players return

• Stories for this page by
Fred Villiers
Peter Desira
and Con Nikolopoulos

1 Footscray are shaping up as a force in the new championship, despite the gloomy predictions about their future in the competition.

Bobby McLachlan's magic touch has transformed last year's unproductive team to a tough squad.

McLachlan, Victoria's most successful coach, joined Footscray from Green Gully Ajax.

Bobby has made it his task to lift the club from the bottom of the National League.

"Footscray is a new challenge for me," says McLachlan.

"You know I love challenges, that is why I accepted the offer.

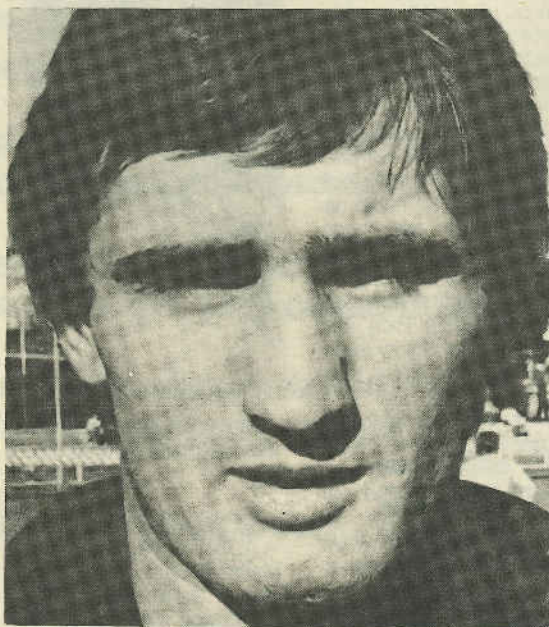
"It is going to be a tough year. We must not forget

that the club struggled to survive last year, and the weaknesses cannot be cured overnight. I have started from the very basics, and I am working my way to the top. I hope I will be able to shape the side before the commencement of the championship.

"I am not worried about the Ampol Cup. I look at it as an ideal opportunity to assess my players and form opinions about each of them. We will be there, we will fight, but win or lose I am not going to worry too much."

2 Stability is an aspect which concerns McLachlan a great deal.

"The struggle of the club to remain in the league last year had some devastating



Zdravko Lujic

FOOTSCRAY

No gloom here

consequences. Players, coaches and administrators walked in and out of the club. This has stopped now, and order has been restored. The players have started regaining their lost confidence, the administrators have realised that panic causes confusion, and the members of the club have been told what to expect.

"The recent renewal of

sponsorship by JAT Airlines has helped improve the finances of the club. I expect, therefore, financial stability throughout the championship with the help, of course, of the members and business associates of the club."

3 McLachlan has the reputation of a shrewd buyer.

And he lived up to his reputation last week with

the announcement of the acquisition of two top State League players, Gus McLeod, from Green Gully Ajax, and Graham Tutill from Frankston City.

McLeod is a prolific goal scorer and is expected to play a starring role in Footscray's forward line.

Tutill is a talented midfielder and McLachlan hopes he will team up perfectly with Ilioski.

NATIONAL LEAGUE PREVIEW

SYDNEY CITY

Same ambition

1 Sydney City Slickers, without doubt the most successful of all National League teams, should again have a good year in 1983.

The Slickers coach puts South Melbourne right at the head of his list of opponents to fear most.

Thomson said: "South Melbourne is a club I have always admired — and worried about. This season, they'll be coached by Rale Rasic and that must be another big plus for them."

Yet, when it comes to

player power — sheer class — there is no club in the NSL better equipped for a difficult campaign than Sydney City Slickers. They have every chance of once again finishing top of the heap.

2 Financially Sydney City are bound to face problems — despite assurances from long-serving official Harry Lakmaker that "we shall buy and sell as normal."

Slickers have always led the way in the spending spree which is regarded

by some people as the NSL's greatest headache.

There has never been any hesitation about spending — and spending big. If the coach wanted a star player, he was given the green light to buy. That is why expensive recruits like John Kosmina and David Mitchell found their way to Sydney City.

It was a policy which brought much success, but it could not continue indefinitely. When the debits heavily outweigh the credits, when income is

way below expenditure, something has to give.

This is the big challenge facing everyone at Sydney City. And Harry Lakmaker is the man who will be anxiously overseeing spending. He is well equipped for the task.

3 Although there have been many reports about top players quitting Slickers, my information is that the squad will show little change from that which won last year's PSL championship.

Certainly the talented Jimmy Patikas will be missed. And the utility talents of young John Spanos will have to be replaced by somebody.

World Youth Championships goalkeeper Glenn

Ahearn has returned to his home State of Queensland and Agenor Muniz has been on trial with Melita Eagles. There, if we can accept the views of Slickers officials, the list of notable departures ends.

There is a cloud over Ian Souness, one of the club's most important stars, because it is still not certain that he will be fully fit. Souness played only a few games last year and I get the impression that coach Thomson is worried about this good player.

Joe Watson still has a year to go on his contract and, even though Slickers gave him permission to find a new club, there was only one offer.

By David Jack



Todd Clarke

ST GEORGE

Saints march on

1 The Saints will again be controlled by their brilliant-manager-coach, Frank Arok who last season, just back in the PSL after being relegated to State League in 1981, saw St George have a wonderful year.

Saints ended the season second-placed to Sydney City, won the NSW Ampol Cup, the Australian Soccer Weekly Challenge Trophy and the PSL Grand Final.

Arok told us this week: "As far as results go for 1983, all I can say is that St George will be flat out to

sustain the standards we achieved last season.

"I will be quite satisfied to have St George in the top four again this season.

"I have not signed any new players this year, in fact we will be losing two of last year's playing staff. They are Ted MacDougall who has gone back to Scotland, and our Hungarian international from M.T.K. Lajos Koritar who has returned to his homeland."

2 Arok as well as being an excellent soccer man, is an

astute financial "mechanic" and is well aware of the current recessionary situation in the economy as well as on the soccer scene.

Arok has already clamped down on his football budget for 1983 and has made it clear that he will not be buying this season, in fact he would be willing to listen to offers for any of his playing staff.

He commented: "St George is a very stable organisation and I can assure you that it is going to



David Skeen

stay that way.

"The financial mess that Rugby League clubs are now finding themselves in and some other soccer clubs, will not be tolerated here at St George."

3 St George's 1983 playing staff?

"As I said before, we are not interested in buying but selling."

"All of last year's playing staff is already under contract and this material will be heavily bolstered by young, exciting talent that is coming through."

"For example, John Muskovits who gave the code away temporarily to concentrate on his scholastic activity, has come back into our camp. An exciting, solid performer."

"Young Andrew Koczka is another. He won the Under 19 Player of the Year award for Saints last year."

"Vincent Colagiuri is another young star ready to break through."

"We have heard so much talk about our youngsters not being given a fair go in senior soccer; well, I am prepared to change all that."

"The ball is now in their court. If they've got it, I am prepared to turn them loose on the pitch with a St George shirt."

"I don't want to hear what they can do. I want to SEE IT. Nothing else, full stop."

We can assume that St George once again will be there in 1983.

By John Economos

SYDNEY OLYMPIC

Young are ready

1 There is an air of optimism in the Sydney Olympic camp now that Tommy Docherty has returned as coach.

Docherty himself has no doubts that the team will succeed. He's very confident about a Top Four berth.

He says: "Two years ago I brought a fresh look to Olympic and introduced many young players. We went quite well."

"Now those young players have more experience.

I still intend to field young faces.

"Is there any reason why we won't make the top four?"

"I firmly believe that by playing open and attractive football we will fill Pratten Park with crowds of 10,000."

2 Olympic's directors, under Docherty's advice, have spent more on transfers and contracts than any other club in the NSL.

Jim Petenelis succeeds John Constantine as presi-

dent after the turmoil in the club late last year which saw Constantine and the then coach Doug Collins resign.

Constantine worked tremendously hard to give the club a strong foundation.

Petenelis has a soccer background and is hell-bent on seeing Olympic achieve success.

But Petenelis realises it's not going to be easy even with Docherty calling the shots.

But he knows Olympic

have some of the most talented youngsters in Australian soccer, but they must perform consistently on the field.

3 Olympic's Greek fans are hard to please. They'll want results now that striker Marshall Soper, midfielder Jim Patikas and Kiwi centre back Ricky Herbert have joined the club.

Soper didn't really perform for Leichhardt, but is a dangerous player on his day. He has that uncanny knack of being able to find space in the penalty area to score goals.

Patikas left the championship club Sydney City. Will he regret the move? Only time will tell.

Herbert played for New Zealand in the World Cup in Spain. He will give the

Olympic backline strength. Olympic is the youngest team in the NSL with an average age of 22.

This is the likely Olympic squad:—

Goalkeepers: Gary Meier, Peter Wilson.

Fullbacks: Martyn Rogers, George Akoutas, Andy Scott.

Stoppers: Ian Rowden, Ricky Herbert, Mike Kelly.

Sweepers: Jim Ziras, Ken Wilson, Tony Dakos.

Midfielders: Peter Raskopoulos, Peter Katholos, Jim Patikas, Garry Philips.

Strikers: Marshall Soper, Mark Koussas, Graham Jennings, Louis Dounis.

Danny Moulis is still recovering from a serious injury.

By Mike Mystakidis



Peter Wilson

LEICHHARDT

May move house

1. The pre-season atmosphere around Leichhardt way is uncommonly healthy and smog-free.

The famous club is moving onward and upward — steadily but surely.

President Nick Papallo — just back from a combined business and family trip to Italy — Football Director Ron Orsatti and new coach Fil Bottalico are all optimistic.

Papallo said: "We have not had to outlay too much on the team. Our aim is to

improve attendances and takings.

"At this stage we want to give our supporters an improved deal. There is a very good chance that we will be housing them in superior conditions at Leichhardt Oval."

"Obviously no licensed club is immune to the effects of the new NSW liquor laws, and the APIA club will feel this to a certain extent."

"If we can team up Leichhardt Oval and our big

club just down the street from it, then patronage would rise to offset the losses caused by the breathalser checks."

2. That is the 1983 Leichhardt story in a nutshell. Steady as she goes.

Football director Orsatti is very much the nuts-and-bolts man, putting the team and ground structures together with insight and patience.

"Leichhardt Council started the ball rolling for



Tony Morsello

use of the ground by getting the approval of the licensees, Balmain Leagues Club, to the negotiations.

No hint of the heebie-jeebies over the future — merely a commonsense, businesslike and sporting approach.

3. Orsatti has concluded arrangements for strapping centre-back Arno Bertogna to join the club from Wollongong Wolves. Peter Tredinnick is ready to strengthen the left side.

Walter Valeri from Canberra has arrived many years later than might have been expected. Previously he was sent packing on medical grounds.

Don't make the mistake of writing Peter Wilson off when discussing pros-

pects with Orsatti, who believes that it is far from an impossibility that the former Australian legend could yet arise like Lazarus for another distinguished season or two.

Coach Fil Bottalico is tossing up between fielding his hardened campaigners and bleeding more young local products. The final decision will show a blend of both.

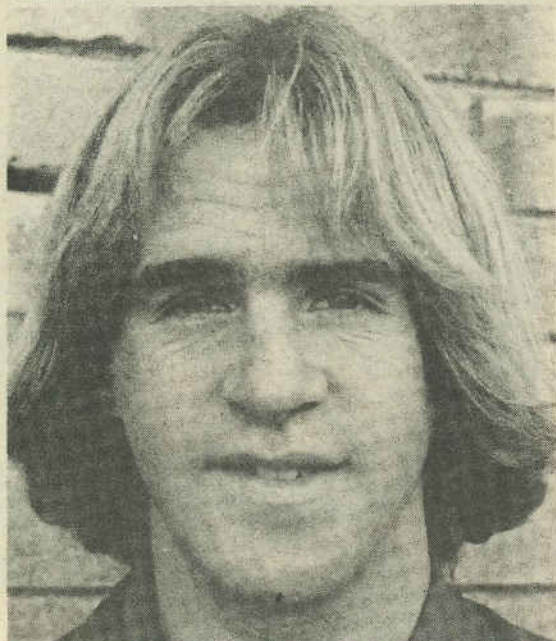
Add to the present Super Challenge Cup team the likes of Peter Jones, Ian Gray, Terry Butler, perhaps Zdenko Kafka, Bertogna and Tredinnick and an unnamed class midfielder and there is the basis of a fine team.

At the same time a rampaging Marshall Soper must be missed.

Keith Gilmour

NATIONAL LEAGUE PREVIEW

1. What results can the club expect in '83?
2. What's the stability of the club?
3. What are the changes in the squad?



Mark Jankovics

1 The big question mark hanging over Wollongong Wolves this year is how badly will they miss international defender Arno Bertogna.

There is no doubt Bertogna was the Wolves' most outstanding man last season and played a major role in the team taking third place.

With Bertogna having left for Leichhardt, Wollongong has a big gap to fill but coach Willie Wallace feels confident he will have the players to retain a winning combination.

One player who is capable of slotting in to Bertogna's place is youth international Ray Vliestra, a youngster who was given every encouragement by Bertogna when he came in to the team last season.

A long time before Vliestra had made the Australian Youth squad, Bertogna had said he had the ability to become one of the best young products seen in Australia for years.

The Wolves will have a change of headquarters this year, having switched from Wollongong Showground to Ziems Park at Corrimal.

Ziems Park was formerly used only for rugby league, but last year was judged suitable for National League soccer during an inspection by League officials.

2 Wolves director have been working hard on the ground in the off-season and chairman Laurie Kelly is hoping the stay there will be short.

1 "I am looking at 1983 realistically and at our financial stability which is important to any club. It would be suicide to jeopardise that and get ourselves into some silly situation that would prove disastrous for everyone," says coach Doug Collins.

"With this young up and coming talent, plus a good sprinkling of experience on the playing staff to blend in, I am quietly excited."

"If we can finish around the fringe of the Top Four bracket with my current staff, I feel we would have done a good job."

"So far in our pre-season sessions, my experienced players such as Henderson and Jankovics have shown excellent attitude and form."

Marconi have appointed John Doyle as Youth Direc-

tor and Mick Hickman will be Collins' close assistant.

The Marconi squad trains every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday night.

Visiting teams will find it very hard to come away from Marconi with anything more than a point.

Marconi is the second club after Canberra Arrows to have appointed a woman as their Soccer Secretary/Promotions 'man'. She is Sue Whitechurch, former Channel 0/28 Production Assistant.

2 The well supported Marconi have started to prepare for NSL honors very cautiously.

Their newly appointed coach Collins, was originally granted a budget of some \$80,000 to go shopping with during the Aus-

tralian off-season.

However, since last November, Marconi have appointed a new soccer committee and they have decided that this budget be wiped out completely.

3 Just before Christmas, Collins flew back to England for a short holiday but kept his eye open for any stray talent that he could spare.

Whilst in England, Collins managed to sign up a 26-year-old midfielder, Tommy Sermani, who play-

MARCONI

Budget wiped out

ed with Torquay United.

Marconi are expecting to have Sermani in Australia in the next three weeks.

Collins was also able to sign up Stuart Robertson, another midfielder, who last year had a short stint with Newcastle K.B.

Robertson has agreed to terms offered him by Collins and the 23-year-old midfielder is expected to arrive in Australia at the same time as Sermani. Meanwhile, Robertson is currently playing for Doncaster Rovers in the Eng-

lish Third Division.

Veteran Marconi favorite players, sweeper Ivo Prskalo and midfielder Roberto Vieri, have both been given free transfers.

Most exciting signing, of course, was that of Australian Youth International, striker Rod Brown from Auburn for \$9,000.

Just before the end of last year, Marconi sold their Brazilian striker, Marcos Silva to Hong Kong for a reputed transfer of \$15,000.

By John Economos



Roy Cotton

WOLLONGONG

Wolves lean, hungry

Sponsors Corrimal Leagues Club have a large area of land opposite their premises and are planning a modern soccer complex.

"We see this as our long-term home," Kelly said, this week. "We have a very good relationship with the leagues club, which does a lot for soccer in this area."

"To have a ground opposite the club would be the ideal situation."

2 Like other NSL clubs, Wollongong have their financial worries, particular-

ly since the Westfield Company withdrew their support for this season.

The Wolves were expecting around \$37,000 for the year from Westfield, the company which backed them for their first two years.

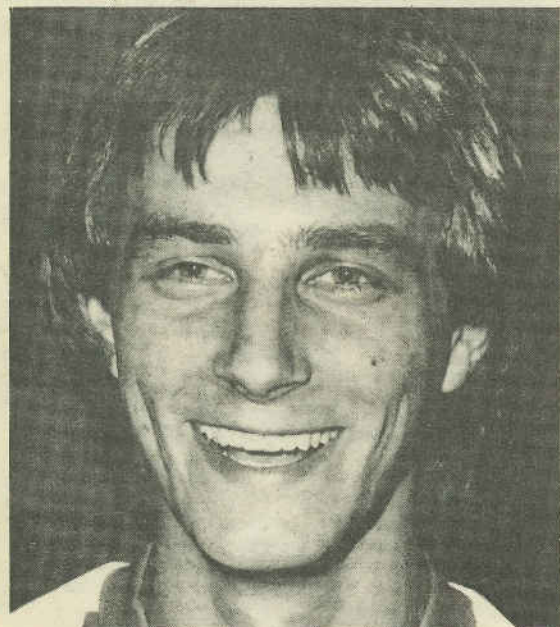
3 Young players who will be given every chance by Willie Wallace this year include Zivko Hristovski and Phil Kerr, two very good midfielders who have served their apprentice-

ship in the youth squad for two years.

Captain Chris Dunleavy will again turn out with the Wolves after there had been some doubt about his future and the same applies to the brilliant Phil O'Connor.

The loss of midfielders Peter Tredinnick and Lee Adam will be felt in the early part of the season but here again Wallace says he has the players to take over.

By Phil Murphy



Joe Senkalski

1 Twenty-three points out of a possible 30 was Newcastle's great second half revival last year.

Club secretary David Maquire confidently predicts that the team is set to continue on the same vein when the season gets under way.

Newcastle's disastrous start to the 1982 season has been held as being mainly responsible for an alarming drop in support.

In 1981, Newcastle KB averaged over 5,000 spectators at their home matches and this figure fell to 4,100 in 1982, a drop of close to 1,000 onlookers.

2 During the off season, discussions took place on the possible amalgamation

with the famous Adamstown Rosebuds club, brought about by Newcastle's apparent perilous financial situation.

Discussions reached a stalemate though communication lines are still open for further talks if necessary.

The annual general meeting of the club will be held on February 18 but already an extremely tight budget has been drawn up with overheads cut to a minimum.

Club officials are looking for increased support through the turnstiles and this will hinge largely on the early results.

3 A poor defensive record of 52 goals conceded, and the departure of long serv-

NEWCASTLE

Emphasis on youth

ing defenders Roy Drinkwater, Colin Curran and John Sneddon has resulted in the signing of two English centrebacks.

Gary Watson, over six feet, had considerable experience with Carlisle United and Oxford United, before playing in the South African National League last year.

Jim Hamilton, one of the most capable midfielders in the League, will not be returning to Australia. Now

in his late 20s he may retire from the game.

Hamilton has recommended Peter Burke, 26, who has made more than 200 appearances with Barnsley, Halifax Town and Rochdale.

There is still a question mark about the availability of Joe Senkalski, who is seeking a teaching position in the Newcastle area.

Long serving goalkeeper Phil Dando is on the transfer list, and Clint

Gosling has the opportunity to make the position his own.

John Sneddon and Colin Curran will turn out with West Wallsend in the Northern N.S.W. first division, while Trevor Smyth will play with Belmont Swansea United.

The genial Alf Stamp has been transfer-listed at \$1500 and the emphasis will be on youth in the Newcastle attack.

By Myles Hay

1 The Canberra Arrows certainly can't do worse than in 1982---they simply couldn't afford a repeat.

New club secretary Karen Grega says the new season will be one of consolidation.

"We hope for harmony and goodwill instead of the confusion and uncertainty of the past," she says.

"Late in 1982 Downer Olympic took over the club and they are an ambitious lot."

Canberra realises that they couldn't expect to make a spectacular climb from the bottom to the top in one swoop but officials hope the team will finish in a respectable position.

"The pain and humiliation of having had to apply for re-admission to the NSL should be forgotten for ever," Karen says.

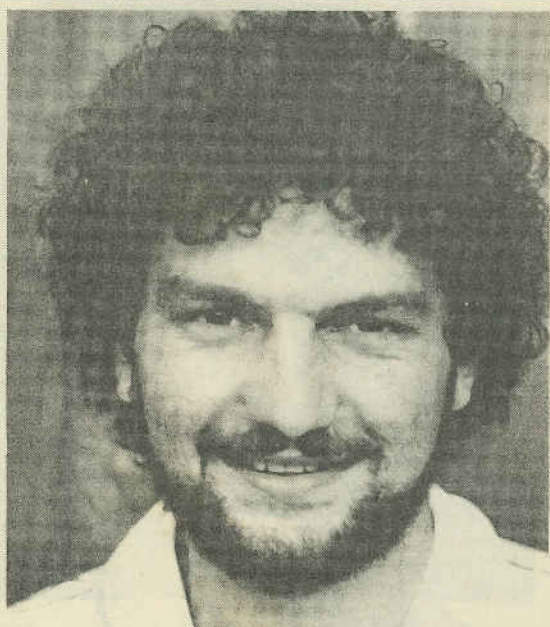
6 Australian Soccer Weekly

2 Canberra's 10 directors come from wide-ranging backgrounds---and are not all Greeks, as some people think.

The President is Aborigine leader Charlie Perkins, the Chairman is David Dillon, the youth liaison officer is Neville Young (an appropriate name for the role) and key financial adviser is Peter Collins, from the Canberra United Building Society management.

The Lotto support will continue and Downer Olympic's resources will have a tremendous effect.

Canberra will experiment with Saturday matches---in order not to conflict with the local games---and will forge stronger links with the A.C.T. Junior Soccer League.



George Christopoulos

CANBERRA

Byrne poses riddle

They hope that large numbers of juniors will be at all of Canberra's home games and will adopt the Arrows as their own.

3 Coach George Murray who has been retained, is searching for at least two additions to his squad: a solid defender and a goal-getting striker.

Some uncertainty surrounds midfield ace Gary Byrne, last year's \$20,000 signing from Marconi. Byrne doesn't want to keep commuting to Canberra.

Mike Milovanovic has gone, now living in Mackay and Scot Ian Purdie could be returning to Scotland soon.

Without them the Canberra squad would look rather thin: goalie Steve Hoszowski or the newly signed Youth star Chris Hummel, defenders John Matsopoulos, Steve Bryant, Terry Byrne and Paul Ontong, a midfielder Ian Stone, George Christopoulos, Don MacLaren, Duncan Cole and Ian Gibson --- and only two strik-

ers, Tony Brennan and the young Phil Reis.

Cole will definitely return though only in late February because of his New Zealand international commitments.

Tony Brennan is keen to prove himself after an indifferent sojourn in Hong Kong where he couldn't become a regular in his team --- coached by former Canberra supreme Vic Fernandez.

By Peter Windsor

NATIONAL LEAGUE PREVIEW

ADELAIDE CITY

Marocchi departs

1. "We will have a few changes, but nothing spectacular," says John Perin.

"We just escaped from the relegation zone last year and now the only way is up.

"If City can't improve on last year's showing, then there is something far wrong.

"Certainly we would have liked some cash to buy a couple of star players, but we've been hit by the recession like everyone else.

"However, the players have responded, and after accepting a cut in wages have trained as hard as ever, and if that continues during the season we could give the league a shake."

2. On the financial side City has a healthy, if not spectacular sponsorship set-up.

There is \$ from Boral as main sponsor and \$26,000 from Adelaide Pest Control, which also includes

the sponsorship of striker Leslie Carter, who joined City mid-season last year on the recommendation of Banfield.

The club's financial position had improved, but Lou Ravesi, again President, has stressed that while a profit was shown any spare cash went to paying off the clubrooms.

"The situation is still very tight on the long term, and a drain on our resources," said Ravesi.

"But we have now a sound financial system

working, and will be able to devote some more time to the performance of the club on the field.

"However, on the showing of the young Socceros I feel we should start giving our Australian-bred players more of a chance, and show some faith in their abilities."

3. Their only significant move has been to sign Australian Youth international Joe Mullen, although his clearance has still to be finalised by Para Hills and the player.

On the debit side Neville Flounders won't be back from the UK until March, and Bobby Russell has joined South Melbourne. Skipper Gary Marocchi,

who did not have the best of seasons in '82, has returned to Perth and is expected to be sold to WA's Azzurri, while forward Peter Rankin may be taken to Marconi on a three-month trial.

Adelaide City's twin-coach plan — last year's boss Johnny Perin and Bobby Ferguson, the former Scotland and West Ham goalkeeper — could make or break the club's fortunes in the field in 1983.

Another bonus is that Kiwi international Glenn Dods has agreed to terms after a dispute last season when he didn't play following the New Zealanders' World Cup campaign.

By Tom McKain



John Nyskohus

WEST ADELAIDE

Pest control rescue

1 "We have nothing to splash around, but with our revamped line-up we will be using the Ampol Cup summer series to come up with a winning combine," says coach Alan Vest.

However, he refused to make any predictions about '83.

Last season he guided West close to the Top Four and at one stage they were title candidates — then the team began to fall apart with Sumner and Boath in Spain and injuries hitting

both Kiwis.

West soldiered on but could finish only ninth — although this was an improvement on their relegation place in 1981.

2 West is weak on sponsorship with only a \$10,000 deal signed with Able Pest Control.

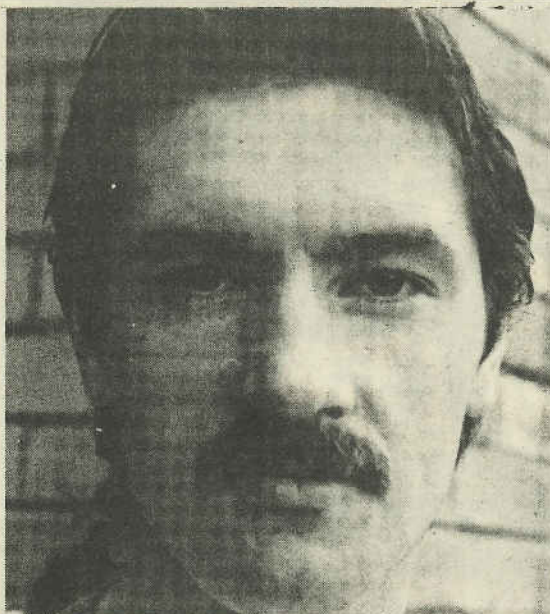
Its city clubrooms again showed a profit, but like so many clubs most of this was used to pay off loan

debts and once again it will be generous fans who will keep the club afloat.

The West hierarchy has been given a shake-up with the return of Nick Manos as president.

He led the club to several triumphs when it was Hellas and has never lost contact.

Last year's president, Dr. Arthur Zaikos, another demon for work, agreed to stay with the club as a vice-president but he had



Graham Honeyman

to cut his workload.

"We're tight for cash, which is no surprise, but we will battle on and survive if we run a tight budget," said secretary Tsamkalidis.

3 West Adelaide look like going into the 1983 National Soccer League season with four new players.

Alan Vest, retained as coach for a second term, is poised to sign striker Wally Bojczuk, Defender Phil Cole and midfielder Stewart Balir (all from State league champions Azzurri) and Blacktown midfielder and all-round defender Bill Amey, all of whom are

training with West.

Vest has lost Kiwi internationals Alan Boath and Steve Sumner, with the latter already signed for an NZ club although he was also wanted by Heidelberg and Preston.

Young defender Ian McKie has been sold to Heidelberg and Scottish wing import Jimmy Wright is training with Adelaide City.

West will have some additional expense as their reserve team won the State League Second Division title and is now in the First Division.

By Tom McKain

BRISBANE LIONS

Tough Dutch coach

1 Since the inception of the National League, Brisbane Lions have cruised along relatively unnoticed in the middle of the table, never really challenging for major league honors nor being involved in a desperate battle against relegation.

Lions officials are confident that in 1983 they will climb above the middle of the table.

"We want to consolidate a position in the top half of the table. With a bit of luck I

think we might even be a chance of fourth position," club Secretary Lawrence Oudendyk said.

Lions probably need a little more experience to complement their youth to achieve that aim but are resisting the temptation to buy instant success.

The club could probably afford to buy one top-rated player as, for the second consecutive year, it registered a profit.

Last year the balance sheet finished \$14,000 in

the black.

Actually there is little doubt that if current policies are maintained Lions eventually will be one of the most liquid clubs in the competition. The club owns its ground, a huge expanse with three soccer pitches, a clubhouse with dressing room and a small but sufficient entertainment building.

But the Lions directors have elected to pull the belt in even tighter and use any surplus cash to pay off

mortgages. The club is confident if it can restrict spending again this season, much of the debt will be cleared.

2 In the past two years the club had avoided any major controversy. The board had been extended to include some smart local businessmen while the club appeared to have developed a good understanding with the Queensland Soccer Federation, closing the rift which opened when Lions left Perry Park to play at Richlands.

With Joe Gilroy at the first team helm, things also seemed to be progressing on the field at an acceptable standard. Lions were not playing championship-winning football but occa-

sionally they would have a faith-restoring win.

It came as somewhat of a surprise to see the axing of Joe Gilroy as coach and the sudden pro-Dutch swing by the club.

3 Former Dutch first division coach Simon Kistemaker, who was with Telstar and Haarlem, was secured and Lions signed a Dutch winger, Boudewijn De Geer, from De Graafschap.

There will be few new faces in the Lions team this season.

Lions are set to sign a former Manchester United youth player Mick Mulvey who has looked very impressive in training.

By Geoff Stead



Col Bennett

BRISBANE CITY

One way to go — up

1 After last season's dismal bottom placing up is the only way for Brisbane City this year — and with the enthusiasm created by the appointment of Jim Hermiston as coach, that climb could be more dramatic than some may anticipate.

Brisbane City has undergone a complete overhaul — from board room to reserve team coach. It was a refreshing and long overdue change.

The enthusiasm of Hermiston has swept through

the club and gone are the grim faces of last season when bankruptcy was whispered on the terraces.

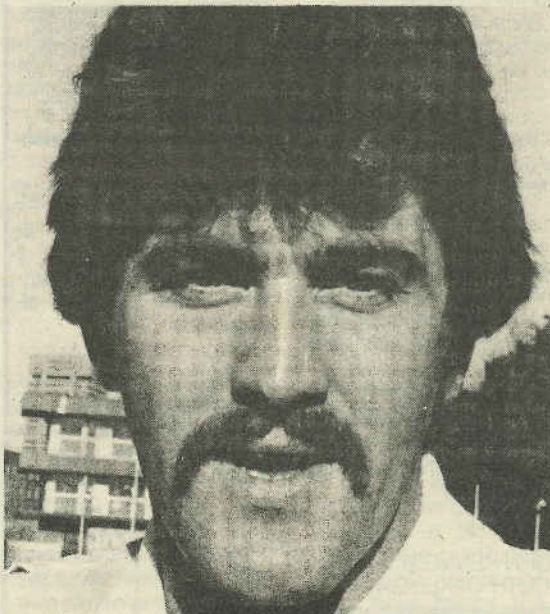
For the first time ever City has adopted a long-range team-building program. At the insistence of Hermiston, a youth policy has been adopted.

He has made it clear to all the players he is not interested in prima donnas or cheaters and he does not intend to have other players keeping youngsters out of lower grade teams.

"This is what it looks like from the top," he told his squad as they rested at the crest of a hill during a recent gruelling 10km training run through the foothills of the D'Agular Ranges on Brisbane's outskirts.

"It takes a lot of work to get there but as you can see it is worthwhile. If you do the work this season there is no reason why you can't have a view from the top at the end of the season."

2 Well-known restaurateur Gino Merlo has been



Bill Wilkinson

replaced as President by club stalwart Sam Papalardo.

The club also is embarking on an ambitious program to construct four show homes. It will mean an outlay of about \$90,000 for each house but a return of more than \$110,000.

The club also has outlawed signing on fees and will not increase last year's wages. Ten more private boxes will be constructed before the start of the season, and hopefully sold soon after, while a club restaurant will be operated and a gymnasium opened to the public.

Unlike previous years when the majority of work was done by two or three people, City have adopted a 15-man board of directors with an inner five-man working committee.

3 City have signed former Gold Coast and Sydney City goalkeeper Glenn Ahearn and have agreed on terms with Lions striker Billy Williamson.

Across the waves striker Gary Bromfield, who with 12 goals was the Bundaberg State League side's top scorer last season, appears set to sign — which has surprised Lions officials who were expecting him to trial at Richlands.

Another welcome sight in the squad is fullback Billy Wilkinson who missed much of last season with a knee injury.

And goalkeeper Martin Coe is back.

By Geoff Stead

STATE LEAGUE REPORTS

Heidelberg gets British recruits

By Fred Villiers

JUVENTUS DOWN GEORGE CROSS

In a practice game, Brunswick Juventus defeated George Cross 5-1.

Striker Graeme French scored twice for the Italian club while Kevin Swinscoe, the former Nottingham Forest apprentice, Kevin Lloyd and Irishman Tony Heary netted the others.

Big Carl Gilder, the former Croatia and Victorian striker, scored for George Cross.

LADIES TAKE A BOW

Victorians Andrea Martin and Kim Coates, both of Greensborough club, have been selected for the Australian women's soccer team to tour Hawaii, in March.

Victorian Betty Hoar, also of Greensborough, has been named team manager.

For the first time, the Victorian Women's Soccer Association, next year will have two State coaches of equal standing in their attempt to formulate a new look into the State squad in preparation for the 1983 championships to be held in Perth.

They are Mick Hoar and Don Joes. Both have had experience with previous State squads.

BRITISH PLAYERS FOR HEIDELBERG

New Heidelberg City coach, Ken Morton, expects former Sunderland central midfielder, Robert Vincent, 20, here this week. Vincent has had six months with London club Orient.

Former Middlesbrough central back, Michael Angus, 21, is also expected to join the Victorian NSL side soon.

Angus has been on loan to English league club Scunthorpe where he's been starring for the past season.

HOLLAND PARK KICK ON

One of the best supported clubs in Melbourne minor leagues is Holland Park who play in the Provisional League.

This Turkish supported club has a dynamic administrator in Abdullah Saglam who does most of the PR for the team.

Last season they attracted almost 1000 supporters to their games and it is a pity they are not playing in a higher division.

In goalkeeper Ali Kotan, 17, they have a promising keeper who last season trained with State League champions Green Gully.

The club is not afraid to spend money. During their successful run in the Provisional Cup last year when



Scene from last weekend's Preston v Footscray Ampol Cup game.

they were beaten in the final by Rosanna, they kept their players in the Hilton Hotel the night before the semi finals and final so they would be 100 per cent fit for the games.

The players were promised a party at the plush Wentworth Hotel in Collins Street if they won the Cup — and it almost came off.

GEELONG CUP GAMES

Wednesday, February 2: Geelong United v Corio. Geelong v Geelong West.

Friday, February 4: North Geelong v Western Victoria Soccer Association. Bell Park v Hamlyn Rangers.

All games at Stead Park, Norlane. Kick-off 6 pm.

BATTLE OF THE CODES

The four soccer representatives in Channel 7's Battle of the Codes at Olympic Park, on February 5, will be Charlie Egan, Charlie Yankos, Steve Blair and Gary Cole.

The Victorian stars will take part in contests of kicking the ball and athletic events with Rugby League and Australian Rules stars.

The show will be televised in Melbourne.

STEVE SHORT ON LOOKOUT

Former Victorian and Melbourne Croatia defender, Steve Short, is still without a club after being out of the game for more than a season.

Following his dispute with the Croatian administration, Short has been sidelined.

He has recently trained with Green Gully and his old friend Len McKendry.

Short says if he doesn't get satisfaction this year he will be seeing his lawyer.

OFFICIAL WAS OFF SIDE!

A high-ranking club official who stood for a senior position on the Victorian Soccer Federation at its last annual meeting should not have been nominated because his club was unfavourable.

It is understood his club had not paid affiliation fees and he was automatically ineligible to nominate for the vacancy.

JOHN KENNEDY AT SOUTH OAKLEIGH

John Kennedy, former South Melbourne goalkeeper, is now assisting with coaching at South Oakleigh, Metropolitan League third division.

He is helping coach Con Xanthopoulos, father of Arthur who plays for South Melbourne.

In his time Con played as a sweeper for the South Melbourne club.

GREENSBOROUGH'S NEW COACH

Fourth division Greensborough have engaged Joe Deguara, formerly of George Cross, to coach them this season.

Kamasz upset

Stefan Kamasz, secretary of the NSL, has protested strongly about a story concerning the four-team NSW Super Challenge Cup.

Kamasz says permission to stage the tournament was sought from the NSW Soccer Federation and permission was given in writing: the story suggested the opposite — that permission had NOT been granted and NSW was upset about the series clashing with its own Ampol Cup.

Bennett in doubt for whole season

By Geoff Stead

ford to go into the transfer market.

The cash appears to be there but the official said it would only be done as the last alternative. He said the club would probably try to

Former Socceroo defender Col Bennett has been hospitalised by a suspected pinched sciatic nerve in his back and is almost certain to miss at least the opening rounds of the National League if not the season.

The rugged Lions and former Sutherland and Apia stopper, who was part of the 1978 World Cup campaign, also has been ruled out of the Queensland v Victoria interstate match at Perry Park on February 20.

But an attempt will be made in two weeks to release the nerve and ease the pain which Bennett revealed had troubled him since late last season.

Bennett, who has been a mainstay of his club's National League team for six years, believes he further aggravated the injury by playing squash to keep fit during the off-season.

He complained of almost-unbearable back and leg pains during pre-season training and was ordered into hospital by a specialist.

No-one is prepared to say how long the injury will sideline Bennett, but if the problem is solved quickly it would not be surprising to see him back in full training inside a month.

The injury is a major blow to any aspirations Lions may have had for this season. With the return to Scotland by last year's sweeper Bobby Ferris, the club now finds itself without a recognised central defence.

The only good news may be contained in a letter received from overseas late last week. At this stage officials are keeping things very close to their chest but it is understood the correspondence could be from a top class overseas defender wanting to live in Australia.

Lions have been trialling Ipswich State League sweeper Alan Marszalek.

But in the absence of Bennett in training games, Marszalek has been partnered with youngsters from the club's State league side.

Teenagers Alan Hunter and Roddy Vasquez acquitted themselves well in trial games but it would take a brave coach to give two central defenders their National League debuts in an opening fixture against Sydney City.

Lions are trying to play down the Bennett injury, saying there is still plenty of time before the start of the season but one official confirmed a quick check on funds was made to determine if Lions could af-

sign a State League defender.

Ipswich's Wayne Warren, Townsville's Frank Houston and Mount Gravatt first division stopper Dave Costa all had big years last season and are likely to be watched closely in pre-season matches.



Colin Bennett

Not much to cheer

Juventus and Green Gully supporters had little to shout about after their goalless draw in the opening Ampol Cup game at Melbourne's Olympic Park last Friday.

Coaches John Margaritis (Juventus) and Len McKendry are wondering what went wrong after all their hard pre-season training and practice matches.

Forwards from both teams were goal shy, and although they did a lot of running they couldn't find the net.

It may be alright for the players but their supporters were disappointed and so too were the 4,700 spectators who turned out for Victoria's official opening event of the soccer season.

Luckily games only last 70 minutes so the agony was over quickly. But there will have to be an improvement this Wednesday when Juventus take on NSL club, Footscray, and Green Gully play Preston in the main game.

Gully were unfortunate not to be able to play their latest signing, former Melbourne Croatia and Victorian defender, Steve Short, who had a groin injury.

McKendry preferred to rest him for more vital games which will come later. Had he played there is no doubt the result would have been different.

Billy Rogers (ex-South Melbourne) lifted Juventus but there was little action up front where Kevin Swinscoe appeared fitter and sharper than he was last season.

Former Albion Rovers forward, Kevin Lloyd, showed promise with his new club Juventus while Vince Bannon, last year's Rothmans gold medal winner, again remained a tower of strength in defence.

The closest we came to a goal was Peter Boyle's thundering shot at the crossbar when Juventus' keeper Alec Fantoma was out of position.

Paul Lewis showed his usual speed, and although he couldn't find the net, proved he's going to be one of the danger target men in the state league again this season.

Best players for Juventus were Alex Fantoma, Vince Bannon and Kevin Swinscoe. Green Gully's best were Paul Lewis, David Smallman and Lou Denys.

STATE LEAGUE REPORTS

Toal Valley

By Peter Desira

Green Gully has snapped up goal poacher Bobby Toal from George Cross to take over the striker's role from Gus MacLeod.

Toal agreed on terms and signed with the St Albans based club last week after Gully paid \$4,500 to Cross for the transfer.

The striker had a maximum stipulated in his contract and Cross was unable to hold him as he had completed his two year agreement with the club.

But the move has done nothing to quell the fierce rivalry between the two Maltese backed clubs since Toal was one of the players Cross didn't want to lose for the coming season.

Very few players have transferred between the two clubs over the past four years and Cross supporters will surely feel the striker was poached.

Toal will have to put up with the added pressure as well as trying to fill the shoes vacated by MacLeod who became Gully's overall top scorer with 34 goals in the two seasons since he came out from Scotland.

Gully wanted to retain the player but MacLeod was not keen to play under new coach Len McKendry and almost joined Croydon before following former Gully coach Bobby McLachlan to Footscray last week.

South Melbourne coach Rale Rasic has been highly impressed by the club's State League centre back George Hannah.

"He is better than 60 per cent of the national league central defenders I have seen," Rasic said last week.

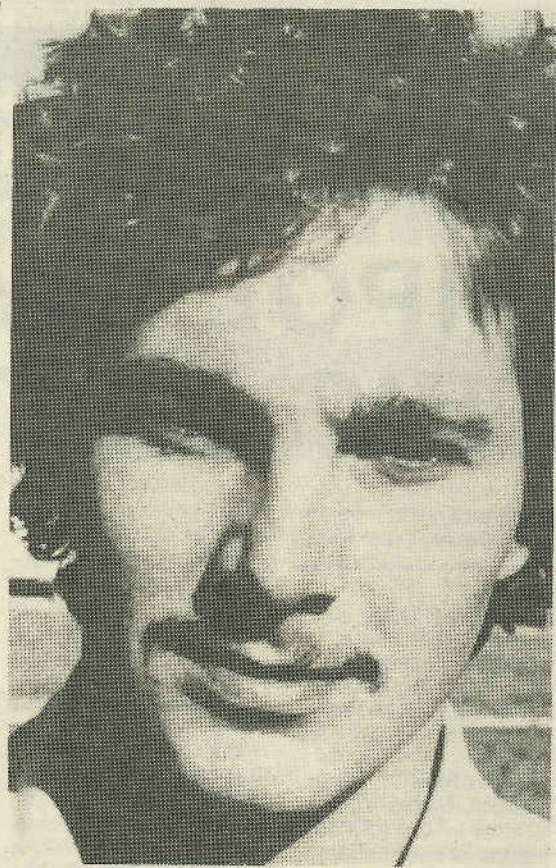
With the player rated so highly one would expect Rasic to include Hannah in the senior squad, but how does one find a spot for Hannah when the man holding the centre back position is none other than current Soccerroo, Steve Blair.

Albion Rovers has appointed a three man team to take over the coaching spot vacated by Frank Munro.

The incoming trio are Hugh Murney, who will work under the title of senior coach, team manager Joe Dockerty, and trainer Bill Murray.

Murney and Dockerty are Victoria's answer to the Clough-Taylor partnership having worked together for five years to take Kew Park Rangers from fourth to first division in the Metropolitan League.

Murray was previously connected with Frankston City but is no relation to his namesake Bill Murray coach of Box Hill.



John Yzendoorn

ADELAIDE STOP PRESS

Last Sunday, Johnny Perin resigned as joint coach of Adelaide City, leaving Bobby Ferguson in charge on his own.

Perin rejected the club's terms and would continue coaching — possibly even playing — somewhere else in Adelaide.

Adelaide City have yet to decide what to do with his full-size statue displayed in the clubhouse.

Did somebody say there are rumblings of discontent at Melbourne Croatia?

Already Branko Culina, who was due to join the club from St Albans, has had a change of mind and publicly declared he will now link up with his former mentor Tony Vrzina at Northcote City.

Culina came to prominence at Croatia in the late seventies but left the club in a huff after a run-in with the then coach John Gardiner and the committee.

Gardiner is back at the helm so it was a surprise that Croatia wanted to sign Culina back in the first place but it didn't take long for the player to find out he didn't form part of the coach's plans.

Croatia had apparently paid part of the \$9,000 fee to St Albans for the transfer and it will be interesting to find out if the move had already been registered with the VSF since players are only allowed one transfer per season under Federation rules.

Culina's clubs since his departure from Croatia in 1979 have been Sydney Croatia, Blacktown and St Albans.



"Same old faithful compliments — my mum and dad, your Auntie Mable, the groundsman's granny and the boss's bank manager..."

Victoria Patrol among Vic's clubs

Vojtek joins

Billy Vojtek, the former Australian international winger, has been appointed Australian Soccer Weekly's Melbourne advertising manager.

Billy, the former Croatia star, is well-known in the newspaper-advertising world. He has been advertising manager of a sporting weekly for seven years before taking up his new appointment.

Billy has all the know-how in the advertising game and will be only too pleased to speak with you if you have an advertising problem.

He can be contacted at our 220 Stanley Street, West Melbourne, office on 329 8944 or after hours on 459 6093.

Remember, if you want to sell to the soccer public you can't afford not to advertise in Australia's No 1 soccer paper — Australian Soccer Weekly, every Tuesday, at your newsagent.

Big Gus

Big blond Scottish striker, Gus McLeod, will be changing his green and white Green Gully strip for the red, white and blue of Footscray.

This dynamic goal grab-

By Fred Villiers

ber who netted more than 40 for the Victorian State League champions last season is just what the doctor (Bobby McLachlan) ordered for the National League club.

Bobby coached big Gus last season and when he left Gully to try his luck with the NSL club, he had a secret wish to take the big striker with him.

But Gus had his eyes on Croydon City and trained with them before Bobby snapped him up just before the kick-off of the Ampol Cup last Friday.

When Gus, the former St Mirren, Albion Rovers and Berwick Rangers forward, signed on Wednesday, he said: "I'm over the moon. Financially there wasn't much in it. But it's a challenge to be playing for a National League club."

"Why not give it a go. I trained with Footscray on Tuesday and they made me very welcome."

"I get on well with them and I will give them 100 per cent just like I did at Green Gully."

Gus said State League soccer was the equivalent to Scottish first division. "But the State League couldn't live with the Scot-

tish Premier League," he said.

"Financially it is better in Australia for Scottish professionals. If Scottish and English players knew the kind of money they could make here there would be more coming out."

"There will be a glut of professional talent in England at the end of the season in April looking for clubs," he added.

Falcons swoop

Morwell Falcons, the Latrobe Valley club who received the VSF's blessing when promoted to State League last season, have swooped on a former English professional forward with 179 Football League games to his credit.

He is Eric Young, 31, who has been playing for Juventus in Tasmania and has also played for Darlington (130 games), Peterborough (25), Walsall (eight) and Stockport County (16).

New coach Tony Boggi must be rubbing his hands with joy to have Young in his camp this year as well as Bobby McGuinness (ex Townsville and Brunswick Juventus) as well as his latest signing of Jim McNeil from Brisbane Olympic.

The side had a remarkable run last year with coach Dave O'Connor to finish in fourth place in the league.

Looking at the way they have recruited over the Christmas break they should go one better in 1983.

New marriage

Sunshine and George Cross did it late last year and now Moonee Ponds and Essendon City are doing it — merging. In other words, they've decided on a marriage to bring the two clubs together.

The two are certain to be stronger when they kick off as Essendon City in the Metropolitan League fourth division this season.

Should be more of it. Too many clubs spoil the standard of play and also helps split our dwindling crowds.

Move wanted

Big Ringwood City central defender, John Luyten, is looking for a new club.

John has grown up with the Melbourne eastern suburbs club and feels it's time for a move.

He can be contacted on 729 8109.

Rogers to Juve

By Peter Desira

Billy Rogers, who made his Soccerroo comeback in that fatal World Cup match against New Zealand in Sydney, will depart from the National League scene to help Juventus try and regain the State League title after a drought which has stretched more than a decade.

Rogers, a veteran of 112 matches and scorer of 12 goals for South Melbourne in the Philips League, is sought by Juventus coach John Margaritis to take over the midfield general's role — a job Rogers filled capably during Margaritis' three-year reign at South.

Margaritis has accepted a fulltime position — and the accompanying \$15,000 salary — at Juventus but the responsibilities include going into the schools in Brunswick to spread the gospel of the sport as well as bringing the championship back to the club which

is fast losing its tag as the leading Italian soccer set-up in Victoria.

The task appeared to be too great to start with but Margaritis has lost none of the guile which gained him the Coach of the Year title in 1981 and he is diligently going about getting together a squad capable of putting in a strong challenge for the honors list.

It might be a bit too early to see the recruiting campaign bear fruit in the Ampol Cup but given time the new squad should blend into a solid team capable of upsetting any side in the State League.

Wanted

Rogers is top of the wanted list since the team lacks direction in midfield and needs a ball winner and a distributor to feed the forward line.

Despite his 33 years, Rogers has lost none of the fitness and love for the game but he lives at Launching Place — a good

60km drive down to Melbourne — and would have been unable to meet Rale Rasic's demanding five-night-a-week training schedule.

So there was never any doubt that he would be allowed to move on.

Negotiations for the transfer started at a friendly between the two clubs last week and the prospects of a deal being completed by the weekend appeared bright.

Apart from Rogers, Juventus has already acquired striker Kevin Lloyd from Albion Rovers for \$3,500.

Lloyd scored five goals in 12 league matches in 1982 but there was never any doubt he would leave Rovers after Frank Munro — the man who recruited him from UK club Worcester — was dumped as coach.

The player is still on a temporary visa and Rovers could only claim expenses for his move hence the cheap transfer.

Vacancy

Juve's temporary visa spots were filled and the club has been forced to give luckless Joe McGrory a free transfer to create a vacancy.

McGrory was brought to Australia from Ireland by Heidelberg but played in only seven games before the club reappointed Len McKendry as coach and the side reverted to a system which never quite suited him.

His move to Juventus was only starting to pay dividends when he was forced out of the game with a broken leg sustained in a reserve match.

Apart from Lloyd two other Rovers players, Ken Smart and Gary Cutler, have been training at Juve.

But the prospects of either joining the club appear slight.

Cutler, a fullback, also is a temporary visa player, while Smart has had a \$14,000 fee slapped on him.



Soccer received an honor last week through NSL chairman Sam Papisavas.

The likeable Sam received the Medal of the Order of Australia for soccer and community services and will have the letters OAM after his name.

STATE LEAGUE REPORTS

Herbert penalty saves Olympic

Sydney Olympic started their 1983 campaign by winning the Super Challenge Cup following a 2-0 draw with St George in the decider at St George Stadium.

But they did it the hard way. They gave their supporters heart failure when they trailed 2-0 after only 14 minutes.

Young St George striker, Robbie Slater, scored a brilliant individual goal in the 8th minute after he had turned Olympic left-back Andy Scott and smashed a shot into the empty net.

From an excellent Dez Marton corner in the 14th minute, St George sweeper, David Ratcliffe, headed in the second goal.

Thousands of Olympic supporters were stunned. But then the slow fight-back began by Olympic.

In the 17th minute, Scott headed in his team's first goal from a Peter Katholos free-kick.

Katholos almost levelled the score before halftime when he crashed a 20 metre shot onto the St George cross-bar.

Katholos tried three long range drives in the second half but St George goalkeeper, Terry Greedy, saved all attempts.

The exciting Sydney Olympic machine

By John Economos

launched raid after raid as they sought the equalising goal.

Saints didn't go on the defensive but hit back with fast open attacks and were led magnificently by their skipper, former international, Peter Stone. His distribution was excellent.

The tension was tremendous as the minutes ticked by and with only 30 seconds left, Olympic's newly signed striker, Marshall Soper, ran into the St George box with only goalkeeper Greedy to beat. Greedy fouled Soper and referee Peter Rampley immediately awarded a penalty.

New Zealand's World Cup defender, Ricky Herbert, a new Olympic signing, lined up the penalty shot.

Herbert drove right-footed and the ball crashed onto the base of the left post but fortunately for Herbert, and Olympic, the ball ricocheted into the Saints' net to level the score and thus give Olympic the extra point they needed to win the Cerrone Jewellers' Super Challenge Cup.

The goal signalled an invasion of highly excited Olympic fans onto the field

forcing referee Rampley to halt the game and declare Olympic the Cup winners.

Stars for Olympic were Gary Phillips and Peter Katholos, whilst for St George, Stone, Greedy and Robbie Slater excelled.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier Rogers (Svinos 63rd min), Rowden, Herbert, Scott (Dakos 63rd min), Phillips, Raskopoulos, Katholos: Soper, Koussas (Dounas 71st min), Jennings.

ST GEORGE: Greedy-Skeen, M. O'Shea, Ratcliffe, R. O'Shea: Barton (Koczka 88th min), J. O'Shea, Stone: Slater, Wilkinson, Marton.

REFEREE: Mr Peter Rampley.

CROWD: 6,158

Leichhardt too strong

Leichhardt proved too strong for Wollongong when they crushed the South Coasters 3-0 in the early match at the St George Stadium.

Both sides squandered many chances in the first half, particularly Leichhardt's dynamic flank-striker, Sebastian Giampaolo.



Sydney Olympic's champion midfielder, Peter Katholos, holds up his team's Super Challenge Cup at the St George Stadium.

CERRONE JEWELLERS

Sponsors of The Super Challenge Cup 1983

"Congratulations to the Sydney Olympic Club, winners of the Super Challenge Cup.

"We also would like to extend our congratulations to St George striker, Robbie Slater, who won the Cerrone Jewellers Award of "Best & Fairest Player" of the tournament.

The Management & Staff of Cerrone Jewellers would like to take this opportunity to thank as well the organisers for the professional manner the tournament was handled.

NICOLA CERRONE,
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Victoria

VIC AMPOL STARTS WITH BIG BATTLES

By Con Nikolopoulos

Buljevic rose in the air to touch the ball down for Wooddin. Wooddin's ground shot was deflected in the net by Heidelberg, defender Joe Angele.

HEIDELBERG: Olver, McMillan, Tansey, Yankos, Spanos, Toro (Paton), Angele, Selemidis, Campbell, Taylor, Cole.

S. MELBOURNE: Laumets, Russell, Xanthopoulos, Blair, Davidson, Halford, Murphy, Campbell (Nikolaides), Evans (Wooddin), Buljevic, Egan.

By Fred Villiers

PRESTON have a fine keeper in New Zealander, Richard Wilson. The way he plucked ball after ball from the air on Friday makes him the man to beat in Victoria's Ampol Cup competition.

Wilson, the Kiwis World Cup goalie, shows signs of developing into one of our best. He stopped many shots from the eager Footscray front runners and was mainly responsible for the goalless draw which Preston earned in their opening Cup game.

Another who looked good in his first competitive match this year was Preston's Alan Whittle who never stopped running.

Whittle signed up with Preston only a short time before their opening game but there's no doubt the club will be pleased he's with them again this season.

He was the Man of the Match on Friday night.

Dennis Boland starred in goal for Footscray and his safe handling will make him a hard man to pass when the league gets under way in March.

Gus McLeod, the big blond striker from State League champions, Green Gully, will take time to settle in with his new club at Footscray.

He did enough on Friday to show that he'll be an asset once he has more confidence in his teammates up front.

By Peter Desira

MELBOURNE Croatia has switched its attention to Polonia Maribyrnong utility player Alec Marshall in its bid to strengthen the

side with a big man to focus its attack on.

Marshall, the tallest player in the State League, has decided he wants to join the club and may well be utilised in Friday's game against South Melbourne even though he is far from match fit.

But Croatia may have to fork out more than the \$4,500 it expected to pay for the big Federal policeman who scored 11 league goals for Polonia last year.

Gardiner, still considered the best sweeper in the State despite his 35 years, will appear before

McGuinness combination.

The pair combined to create Falcons' three main scoring opportunities including the winning goal in the 52nd minute. Mitten made the run down the right wing and sent over a cross from the byline for the unmarked McGuinness to accept with glee and head home at the near post.

McGuinness was making his competitive debut for Falcons since moving back to Victoria after spending the last two years with Townsville in the Queensland State League.



New Footscray striker Gus McLeod who transferred last week from State League champions, Green Gully Ajax.

the VSF tribunal tonight to argue the case for a lowering of the \$5,000 fee Green Gully is asking for his release.

On Saturday the Croatia defence could well have one with Gardiner's expertise because it was penetrated far too often and with comparative ease by the Noel Mitten-Bobby

Morwell Falcons 1 (0) Melbourne Croatia 0 (0)
Scorer: McGuinness 52m.
Morwell: Whiteside, Smart, Higham, Irvine, Neill, Bingham, Young, O'Callaghan, McGuinness, Mitten, McClunie.

Melb Croatia: McRae, Curcio, Parton, Adams, Bilaver, Biskic (Deankovic 59m), Antolovic, Faulkner, Latif (Gojevic 59m), Brogan, Cumming.
Ref: Len Cremer

STATE LEAGUE REPORTS

Local League dies of malnutrition

By Geoff Stead

Queensland

After four financially troubled years, the Queensland Soccer Federation has abandoned its State League competition.

The major Queensland competition will now be a Brisbane-based premier division and the country teams have been advised to go back to their local competitions.

But in the case of Townsville and Rockhampton's Capricornia it almost certainly will mean the demise of the clubs.

The decision to scrap the state league, a 10-team competition which at one stage took in areas from the Gold Coast to Mareeba, (near Cairns), was made as a result of recommendations put forward by the four-man QSF restructuring committee.

The re-structuring of the federation had been mooted for years but finally became a reality with the formation of the committee late last year. The chairman was QSF president Ian Brusasco, who was assisted by QSF vice-president Cliff McClurg, management committee-man Allan White and former player Stan Jackson.

The committee spent more than 100 hours and conducted nearly 40 interviews before delivering to the QSF annual general meeting a comprehensive blueprint for the future.

The rising costs of transportation around the state was given as the chief reason for the demise of the state league. The QSF had been unable to secure a substantial sponsor for the competition and subsequently the member clubs were faced with increased affiliation fees.

The cost of participation in the league was largely responsible for two clubs folding during the four years — Brisbane's St George Souths and Gold Coast City.

Another six clubs, Frenchville, Southside Eagles, Wynnum, Grange Thistle, Mount Gravatt and Eastern Suburbs withdrew at various stages, Mareeba was asked to withdraw at the end of 1981 to help cut costs.

The league was a boon to the country areas, leading to rapid increases in the local standard of play, but Brisbane teams found their games against visiting country sides were not well supported.

The league almost folded at the beginning of last year, when the then top three clubs, Thistle, Mount Gravatt and Easts withdrew but the competition was saved when Gold Coast club Twin Towns, Brisbane's Olympic and Valley Trident, Nambour Reds and teams from the two Philips League clubs

accepted invitations.

The plan now adopted by the QSF is very similar to the one proposed by Thistle, Mount Gravatt and Easts when they withdrew.

The top 12 clubs in Brisbane, as determined by the restructuring committee, have been invited to join the new premier division. They are: last year's state league side — Ipswich United, Brisbane Olympic, Valley Trident, Brisbane City and Brisbane Lions (the latter two possibly under different names); former state league sides Grange Thistle, Mount Gravatt and Eastern Suburbs; and first division clubs Acacia Ridge, Sunnyside, North Star and Taringa.

Two other state league sides Nambour Reds and Twin Towns were included in the new Brisbane first division but Twin Towns earlier this month withdrew issuing a heated statement in which they claimed they had been exploited by the QSF to keep the state league going for one more year. The club now intends to play in the local coast competition.

The other first division clubs are: Annerley, Bardon, Coalstars, Darra, Goodna, Mitchelton, Nambour, Newmarket, Rochdale, Pine Rivers and Wynnum.

Under the re-structuring committee's proposals, any club lower than the first division will not be permitted to sign professional players after this year. Premier clubs by next season will also have to meet a criteria which includes fully enclosed fields, scoreboards and ball boys.

One of the real losers in the restructuring was Townsville Kern United, which at one stage last season submitted an application for a place in the national competition. Townsville was by far the top country side and the only one which consistently competed with the Bris-

bane sides. Kern United were Ampol Cup winners and preliminary finalists last season.

The club, which was incorporated especially for the state league, had built a playing squad much stronger than any in its local competition and following the re-structuring committee's announcement, the entire playing staff was placed on the transfer list.

The new competitions will begin in late March or early April.

Coach Alan Vest takes the first step towards putting his reputation on the line in the 1983 SA Ampol Cup tomorrow night (Wednesday).

West Adelaide fans last season went along with him, his first with the Hawks, but now they will be looking for a flying start against State League club Para Hills in the late match.

While cash has been tight, Vest still has six new players available.

In the early match State League champions Azzurri take on Campbelltown and Azzurri coach Frank Schaper also has to prove his worth after winning two league titles straight.

He has lost striker Wally Bojczuk and midfielder Stewart Blair to West and full back Phil Cole could be signed by kick-off time.

However, Schaper is preparing to call in his recruits striker George Konstandopoulos (Port), midfielder Peter Ammirato (Campbelltown) full back Frank Vizzari (Para Hills) and all-rounder Larry Sullivan (Noarlunga).

Para has lost Youth Soc-

Coaching Duo

Illawarra premiers and grand final winners last season, West-Figtree will again have the Luke Robaard-Phil Carr coaching combination at the helm.

After last season's success both indicated they wouldn't be interested in the job again.

The committee advertised the position and naturally there were some very interested applicants but eventually Robaard and Carr decided to stay

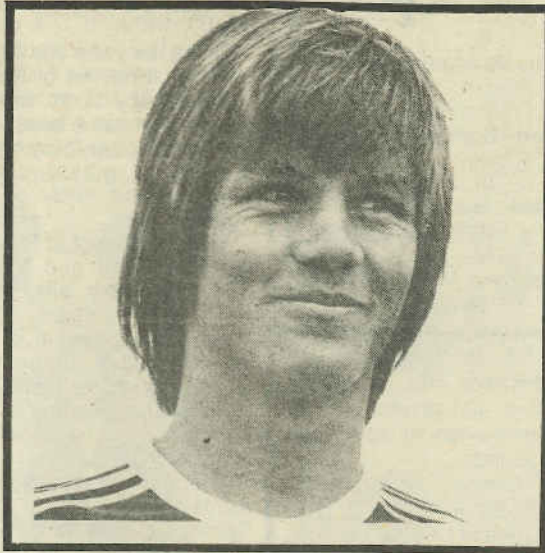
on.

They will have basically the same side as last season with some young players pushing for a place up from reserve grade.

The club must wonder what they can aim at this season after winning all three grand finals last year.

It was interesting to see Figtree's star midfielder Phil Brown training with Wollongong City recently.

One of the more talented players in district soccer, Brown has the ability to do well in a higher grade.



Many young talents like Steve Hogg (pictured) could be lost to soccer with the abandonment of the Queensland State League.

South Australia

By Tom McKain

ceroo Joe Mullen to Adelaide City and go in an unknown quantity against NSL club West.

Apart from the Azzurri trio, West has striker Paul Wormley, an Englishman who was with Townsville in Queensland, and another English import in Bill Amey, former Newcastle and Blacktown defender.

And the youngest recruit could prove one of the best — John Panagis, a midfielder or forward from Port.

West won the Cup on penalties (5-4) against Adelaide City last year and have been seeded along with the other NSL club to

again meet in the final.

Azzurri, if they strike form, could be the main threat to City in their group.

Campbelltown have done nothing spectacular in the close-season, and like West Azzurri, should win tomorrow night.

Any threat to West making the final will come from Polonia who look the strongest State league team in West's group.

The fixtures for tomorrow week are —

Group A — Polonia v Croatia. Group B — Adelaide City v Beograd.

Wollongong

Fairy Meadow are breaking new ground this season with their entry in to the NSW League and the move has caused plenty of controversy.

The club will have teams in the under-13, 14, 15 and 16 divisions and this hasn't pleased Wollongong City officials.

The Wolves feel the plan will weaken the overall strength of youth soccer in Illawarra.

Secretary John Vlietstra says it would be far better to have the best players with one team when it comes to testing out the strength of Illawarra junior soccer in Sydney.

"As things are now we will have some of the best players and Fairy Meadow will have others so the area overall will suffer," he said.

Fairy Meadow secretary Walter Chichkan disagrees and says last season there were players good enough to play in the league but

weren't given the opportunity.

He says Fairy Meadow want to make sure these youngsters get a fair go and is confident there is enough talent in the district to field two teams in each age division.

"We have very conscientious coaches and managers for the boys and our teams are shaping up well at this stage," Chichkan added.

Phil Murphy

Wollongong's John Fleming and Peter Willis are expected to retire from soccer within the next few months. They have leased a four-legged goldmine by the name of Guild Michael and claim their future is now secure. Guild Michael is a racehorse and is trained at Kembla Grange near Wollongong by Bob Bain.

Big Mac awards

ACT Soccer administrators are determined to thoroughly promote, for the first time, the MacDonald's Sports Skills system.

However, according to ACT President, Roger Grylls, the ASF has handed over the administration and promotion of the scheme to each State Association.

"It had to be better promoted and administered," Grylls said.

"It has lots of potential but you don't keep sponsors if you don't do your part of the bargain."

Under the MacDonald's Skills Award system, young soccer hopefuls have to show all-round proficiency which gets increasingly more difficult.

There are eight degrees of awards, the top being the golden one.

"As in the past, the Director of Coaching in each State will be actively invol-

ved in the scheme," Grylls said.

"The review of the MacDonald's scheme that has led to local control is a step in the right direction".

Canberra has two major MacDonald outlets.

With proper promotion a number of youngsters would be keen to attempt to progress through all stages of the award system.

Steve Burns

Former Leeds United goalkeeper Brian Williamson is keen to get back into soccer coaching after three years absence through injury. Williamson is living in Sydney — telephone 671 1251

Canberra

GIRL AIMS ARROWS TO THE TOP

By Steve Burns

Karen Grega has broken new ground in Australian soccer. She is Canberra Arrow's first full-time secretary administrator — a job which carries a \$25,000-a-year salary excluding fringe benefits.

And this at a mere 25 years of age.

But Karen, an Honours Business Communications graduate from Queensland University, has long wanted to be a soccer administrator.

It was a dream that began when she was a teenager, that saw her first playing women's soccer for Brisbane clubs Annerley and Merton East and later gaining her third grade referee's ticket and refereeing at that level for a full season.

It was a dream that began when she was a teenager, that saw her first playing women's soccer for Brisbane clubs Annerley and Merton East and later gaining her third grade referee's ticket and refereeing at that level for a full season.

It culminated in her thesis being on the background and development of Brisbane City (former Azzurri), her active involvement in the club's promotional efforts and her first job in Sydney with Australian Soccer Pools and a position on the now defunct ASF marketing committee.

Italian influence

What fired her interest in soccer?

Not my European parents, but my Italian girlfriends at high school who regularly watched Azzurri, as Brisbane City was then called," says Karen.

"When I saw my first game I fell in love with the sport."

"I must have done something right when it came to writing my thesis for it did get me honors."

"I wanted to put my theoretical knowledge of business communications and marketing to practical use in soccer."

"I've now achieved that and much more rapidly than I expected."

"It is quite a challenge, but one I'm determined to get on top of and succeed at."

Already those who have met her have been impressed by her sincerity and professionalism.

"I know people think it's strange that a woman would want to make her career in soccer administration," Karen said.

"I'm used to it. I got used to it in all places in the United Kingdom when, with a letter of introduction from the then Queensland coaching director, Dennis Ford, I visited clubs like Arsenal, West Ham and Leeds."

"They couldn't believe it either and many stories were written about me in soccer magazines and in newspapers."

"I have the professional qualifications and a genuine love of the game."

"I think they make a good marriage."

KEITH GILMOUR'S JUNIOR SCENE

German club

A new club will be in action in Illawarra this season — AGA Germania — and they have something many NSL clubs would love to have.

The newcomers have their own licensed club overlooking their ground which in turn spreads out over the Kembla Grange area.

Mini Ampol Cup

POOL A:

Nepean, Bankstown, St George, Manly, Southern Eastern, Ku-ring-gai, Western NSW.

POOL B:

Illawarra, Canterbury, Sutherland, Gladesville, Blacktown, Granville, Southern Districts.

ROUND — SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6 — Cook Park

9.30am: Nepean v Bankstown, 10.45am: Illawarra v Granville, Bates Drive.

9.30am: Sutherland v Gladesville, 10.45am: Illawarra v Canterbury, George Christie Reserve, Yanilla Ave, Wahoonga.

9.30am: Southern & Eastern v Ku-ring-gai, 10.45am: St George v Manly, Western NSW, bye in Pool A, Southern Dist bye in Pool B.

TOWN LIKE ALICE TAKES TO SOCCER

The National junior championships for under 13s are likely to be played in Alice Springs in September.

The Central Australian Junior Soccer Association only opened for business in 1976 but they also hosted a championship in 1979.

One of the livewire men behind the Association is president Arthur Poole, who visited Sydney for the

last meeting of the National Junior Council.

His current aim is to make sure that funds are raised to ensure the success of the 1983 titles.

His enthusiastic executive includes Alan Holdsworth, Michael Hopkins, Frank McEllister, Jim Bowker, Joe Arrand, John Charlton and Don McKenzie.

In such a distant town of limited population the As-

sociation has posted up over 400 players and 25 teams which use four grounds.

Competitions are conducted in U8, U10, U12, U14 and U16. Seven clubs are involved.

The Northern Territory is interested in promoting soccer at Tennant Creek and made a grant to assist them. Gove is another interested town for soccer.

Last year's representative coaches and managers were: U13 J. Kiers, D. Dennis, U14 T. Becket, A. Holdsworth, U15 R. Bell and P. Jackson.

The women are active in the sport in the Territory.

Inner city is invaded

A drop-back in team entries and player numbers can be avoided in most district areas with the aid of adequate planning at club level.

Only a few years ago the effect of a decline of the postwar baby boom was thought to mean a lessening of soccer-playing strength at grassroots level, but this rarely occurred.

Clubs are adept at finding youngsters and the huge dormitory suburbs have big numbers of young players keen to follow their elder brothers and sisters into the game.

However, methods of recruiting have to be refined to meet circumstances.

One of the big improvements to junior soccer in Sydney has been the coming of old-established areas which for a long time did not possess the desired numbers of juniors and suburban club infrastructures.

Southern & Eastern Soccer Association came to the fore and gradually the inner city region sprang to life in junior and school soccer.

There was initial opposition of the nature that tries to hold soccer back with cries of 'wog-ball' etc, but these haters have found the going extremely tough indeed.

Australians old and new enjoy the junior and school soccer movement.

Years ago the inner city was the domain of Rugby League, but now soccer is well to the fore, just as it is in almost every other part of this vast city.

No-one could have contemplated soccer having a huge hold in Campbelltown, Camden, Parramatta, Penrith and Liverpool, but today soccer's charms are well-known and increasingly developed right throughout the entire Sydney plain and extending virtually to every part of the NSW country side.

From these junior and school players will come the leading Australian soc-

cer players of the future, and more so because senior clubs of note know that their future lies in developing the top talent.

With organisations such as the Australian Institute of Sport to the fore the code now has a line of progress that can lead a player into soccer, physical culture and other academic and business outlets that were underdeveloped until the Institute came along.



Victorian club Spring Valley pictured just before one of their matches last season.

F.A. CUP FINAL

NOTHING BEATS BEING THERE YOURSELF.

Let Fred Villiers take you to the F.A. Cup Final on May 21st.
See the spectacle from your reserved seat.

Also, England v. Wales, May 24th and England v. Scotland, June 1st.

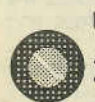
WIMBLEDON

THE DERBY, ROYAL ASCOT BRITISH OPEN GOLF

THE PRUDENTIAL WORLD CUP CRICKET FINALS

So why not make 1983 a year to remember and attend one, or more, of Europe's prestigious sporting events?

There is total flexibility in when you travel, so that you can plan your itinerary around the events that suit YOU. You can even choose to include accommodation. And, of course, you are assured of reserved seats at all sporting events.



Peter Caplan's

Australian Sporting Tours, Box 600, Toorak, Vic. 3142.

Tel: 211 1646, 211 2930

OR SEE ANY T.A.A. OVERSEAS TRAVEL DEPARTMENT

12 Australian Soccer Weekly

SYDNEY CONTACTS

So you would like to contact a local soccer club to place your youngster or maybe try out for a local Premier League or all-age club.

These are the people that can put you on the track to a club in your own suburb or town in and around Sydney.

BANKSTOWN: Eric Drury, 773 3052.

BLACKTOWN: Albert Lobley, 621 1580.

CANTERBURY: Jim Wakeling, 624 8427 (bus).

GLADESVILLE: Frank Wilson, 80 5215.

GRANVILLE: Don MacDougall, 9 Hilary St., Winston Hills (Bill Kennedy) 639 8046.

ILLAWARRA: Dick Smart 042 67 2821.

KU-RING-GAI: Rod Woods, 44 7069.

MACARTHUR & HIGHLANDS: Ross Andrews 046 84 1369.

MANLY-WARRINGAH: Len Lems 451 8825.

NEPEAN: Barbara Horley, 047 21 5650.

ST GEORGE: John Hedison, 579 6977.

SOUTHERN & EASTERN: Syl Ventura 344 0777.

SOUTHERN DISTRICTS: Alex Morrison 607 0464.

SUTHERLAND: Les Rushbrook, 525 2416.

CENTRAL COAST: Mike O'Connor, 043 24 6475.

REFEREES: RON BEAUMONT, 85 73711.

Support for Mini Ampol

Western NSW is the only country Association to enter the 1983 Mini Ampol Cup competition for under 13 teams.

This year's entry is 14 Associations. The series kicks-off on Sunday.

The youth League teams of senior clubs will not be involved, although it is expected that the highly successful NSW Youth League, which includes both youth teams from senior clubs as well as Association representative teams, will continue as usual.

It turns out that club teams were included in the 1982 Mini Ampol Cup although there is no provision for this in the rules,

which have not been amended.

Some associations are concerned that club teams were being accepted into the Mini Ampol Cup without making the usual contribution to the running of amateur soccer generally.

Association clubs pay a capitation fee of \$5 a team to the State Amateurs to defray running costs of the organisation for the year.

There is also some sensitivity amongst the Associations to the point that senior club players are being subsidised by being admitted to representative team camps, whereas the costs of these are distributed over the NSW Amateur clubs as a whole.



Sydney Olympic U15s. Back row: (l to r): C. Hrist (manager), F. Zarantonello, S. Grant, G. Baltatzis, C. Kalantzis, C. Tsimilas, J. Grammenos, S. Mellissourgos, A. Zervas, S. Politi, G. Ankudinoff (coach). Front row: B. Ciaramello, T. Russell, A. Saad, J. Rankin, M. Spanoudakis, S. Marinos, G. Karabalios.

Big prizes for juniors

Prizes have been lifted by \$200 to \$750 in the 1983 Serderon the Plastic Man Prize competition.

Once again Serderon Pty Ltd and AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY will be co-operating in staging the event, which has helped to lift the standard of news presentation and interest amongst soccer juniors and schools.

The competition is simplicity itself.

Junior clubs, schools and associations supplying stories and pictures to ASW up to the issue of Tuesday, September 27 will qualify for judging by a panel of ASW soccer experts.

The story or picture may be a one-off entry, or there may be a series of entries over the season.

The information will be judged on its merit.

First prize will be lifted to £300 and second to £200.

There will be a third award of £100 and two consolation prizes of £75.

Steve Serda, Managing Director of polythene bag and printed carrier bag suppliers Serderon Pty Ltd, is delighted to again be involved in this important junior soccer promotion.

His interest in the juniors has flowed on from involvement in the management of Southern & Eastern Soccer Association in Sydney and as newly-elected president of Sydney City Junior Soccer Club.

He told us: "I have seen a marked improvement in handling of junior news in association newspapers, local papers and in Australian Soccer Weekly's columns over the past few years.

"The continued success of ASW in this field has prompted me to increase the prize money this year.

"I am certain we will see even greater enthusiasm for the Serderon Prize entries this year.

"It is a competition that will draw widely from the junior soccer community

throughout Australia."

In 1982 the awards went to Chullora Wolves (Sydney), Bundaberg Soccer Association (Queensland), Northern NSW Schools Soccer Federation (Newcastle) and Runaway Bay Soccer Club from Queens-

land Gold Coast.

High commendation went to Mt Gravatt and Buderim Wanderers from Queensland, Blacktown United from Sydney and Weston Creek from the ACT.

Right now we want your

team pictures and players' names and news stories.

Send them to ASW, PO Box 406, Broadway 2007. Or if you are in Sydney and prefer it, drop them into our office at 261 Broadway Sydney, just a few doors up from Grace Bros store.



Melbourne's Oakleigh club's second grade team in Melbourne. Back row (l to r): Petropoulos, A. Papageorgiou, Sgouras, Palmologoudias, Kritsilidis, Balis, V. Kambilakis, Laliotis (sec). Front row: Mamasis, Tsiantoulas, Petrou (coach), Varelius, Zafiriou (manager), and front C. Papageorgiou, Vatselas.

Club Registration Contacts

WAROONGA SOCCER CLUB — All-age, ring Bill McCranor 477 2473, 449 3926.

HORNSBY HEIGHTS — Montview Oval, Kookaburra Rd., Hornsby Heights.

WEST RYDE ROVERS — Amenities Block, Meadowbank Park, Constitution Rd, Meadowbank. Sat Feb 5, 9am to 2pm all grades, or ring Hank Bomers 858 1009 or Dick Robinson 858 3848.

EPPING-EASTWOOD — Join the Tigers, Sat February 5, 10am to 2pm, Boronia Park, Kent St, Epping. 86 4350 or 858 1605.

WEST PENNANT HILLS — Premier League and U21. John Finlayson 872 1080. Junior registrations Sun Feb 6, Campbell Park 10am-3pm.

CARLINGFORD RED BACKS — U6 to Premier League. Girls from U14 onwards. Roselea Amenities Centre, off Roselea Way 9am to 3pm Sat. Feb 5. D. Nieass 848 8086 or J. Henry 871 2514.

CHULLORA WOLVES SOCCER CLUB — Managers, coaches and players required for teams U/6 to all-age and girls' teams. Sign-on days — February 5 and 12. 10am-2pm — Lockwood Park, Waterloo Rd, Chullora. Enquiries: Kevin Calderon 709 1615.

NORTH BANKSTOWN SOCCER CLUB — 1983 Fed. Youth League trials. Players required for U/13, U/14, U/15 and U/16 Youth Teams. Trials, training at Potts Park, Yagoona. Enquiries are welcome John Clevely 709 3087 Harold Morrice 726 1162.

BEROWRA SOCCER CLUB — registrations at The Village Green Sat Feb 5 and Sunday Feb 13, 9am to noon. Secretary Colin Standingford 456 2959.

NORMANHURST SPORTS CLUB — Normanhurst Oval Fri Feb 4 7pm to 9pm, Sat Feb 5 9am to 2pm.

ASQUITH SOCCER CLUB — Sundays Feb 6 and 13, Mills Park, D. Harwin 477 4191, M. Salmon 476 6039.

THORNLEIGH SPORTS CLUB — Thurs night Feb 3, Sat morning Feb 5 at Westleigh Shopping Centre, Duffy Ave, Westleigh.

HORNSBY RSL — Sat Feb 5, RSL Memorial Hall, High St, Hornsby. Peter Ingham secretary 476 3188.

Young hopefuls join Auburn

By Rob Wozniak

Auburn State League club scooped the pool by recruiting many of the highly successful Chullora Wolves and Bankstown District players for their under-13 Youth League team.

The side is based on the Chullora team that were the NSW Club champions in both 1981 and 1982.

Many of the players have been featured on Channel 9/28's youth soccer programs.

They are already training at the indoor stadium at Lidcombe.

The team is preparing itself for a 12-month season, climaxing with a tour of England in January 1984.

There is still a vacancy for one talented under 13 player who wants to join a dedicated team. Contact 642 5471.

Auburn Youth League trials for under 14, 15 and 16 players are being held at Mona Park from 5.30/7pm on Monday and Wednesday nights.

Contact can also be made with John Hart or Fred Parker on 646 3511.

The U/13 youth team is: Michael Beky, David Bonnyman, Gabriel Bruno, Stuart Coutts, Bruce Elysee, Darren Gale, Anthony Hyde, Jason Kanningiesser, Craig Korkmann, Keiran Pender, Darryl Pidcock, Paolo Rago, Hayden Sanson, Harry Wozniak, Dany Wright; Coach: Robert Wozniak; Manager: Denis Wright.

AUBURN STARLETS



Some of the many young hopefuls who have joined the Auburn U13 team.

KEITH GILMOUR'S JUNIOR SCENE

NORTH BANKSTOWN SOCCER CLUB

N.S.W. STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2

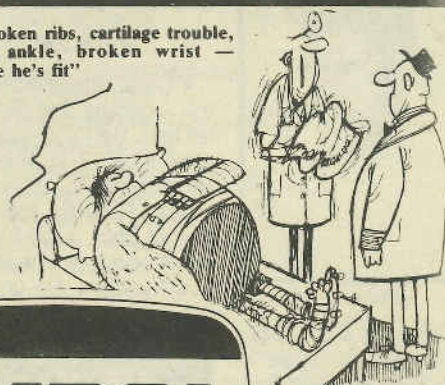
Players required for all Grades

Training Potts Park, Yagoona

6pm Tues & Thurs

TELEPHONES 533 4222 OR 637 9840

"Two broken ribs, cartilage trouble, sprained ankle, broken wrist — otherwise he's fit"



AMPOL

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION PRESENTS

ROUND 2

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4 — MARCONI OVAL

6.45pm Marconi-F'field Vs Auburn

8.25pm SSC Yugal Vs Croatia Sydney

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4 — ST. GEORGE STADIUM

6.45pm Sydney City Vs Cant.-M'ville Oly

8.25pm Sydney Olympic Vs R'wood or Inter Monaro

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5 — MELITA STADIUM

6.45pm Wollongong Vs Ku-Ring-Gai or Polonia

8.25pm Melita Eagles Vs Manly-Wah or B'town City

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5 — ST. GEORGE STADIUM

6.45pm Bankstown City Vs St George BSC

8.25pm Leichhardt Vs Avala or S'land Shire

ROUND 3

TO BE ADVISED, WILL BE PLAYED OVER 11th OR 12th FEBRUARY

Baptists Succeed

Carlingford Baptist had a tremendously successful season in the NSW Protestant Churches Soccer Football Association.

The club won the First Division and the Raahauge Cup with victory over St Columba's Castle Hill.

In five years the club has moved up from Fifth to First Division, a remarkable achievement in anyone's

language.

Tony Rae netted both goals. St Columba's came back in the second period to net a goal and put the pressure on the Carlingford defence.

The reserve grade team also had a big year. They were second in the minor premiership and reached the final only to be overcome by Engadine 4-1.



"You helped swell the gate today — 7,576 spectators watched the game and you made it 7,577"

LATIN
AMERICA

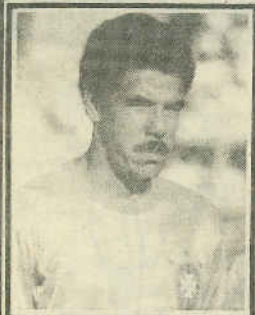
BRAZIL

• Sao Paulo's tall black central striker, Serginho — regarded by many as the weak link in last year's World Cup team — has been fined 40 per cent of his salary for having been sent off six minutes after the start of a recent and vital match. Now Serginho wants to move.

★ ★ ★

• Flamengo's brilliant Zico has just scored his 600th goal in first class soccer, grabbing two against Madureira.

★ ★ ★



Cerezo

• Brazilian ace Toninho Cerezo is a candidate for the Social Democrat Party in his native Minas Gerais state and could become a full time politician, if elected.

★ ★ ★

• It sounds like a Maxwell Smart incident. Brazilian club Globo Mareiro have appealed to have their 2-1 defeat against FC Cavelha annulled because of the referee. When tossing up before the match, the referee flicked the coin into the Globo captain's eye who thus couldn't play in the match. Sorry about that, Chief.

ARGENTINA

• Boca Junior's central striker Ricardo Gareca is in Europe, hoping to be signed by either Atletico Madrid or FC Barcelona. And he is in safe hands: his affairs are managed by the same Jorge Cyterspiller who looks after the divine Diego Maradona, having turned the former slum urchin into Maradona Productions.

★ ★ ★

• On his recent visit to Barcelona, Argentinian master coach Luis Cesar Menotti had \$9,200 stolen from his hotel room. When he ruefully mentioned this to FC Barcelona president Nunez, the millionaire opened his pocketbook and gallantly reimbursed the hapless victim. Spanish newspapers are now

asking why did Senor Menotti carry all that cash with him — or did he?

★ ★ ★



Villa

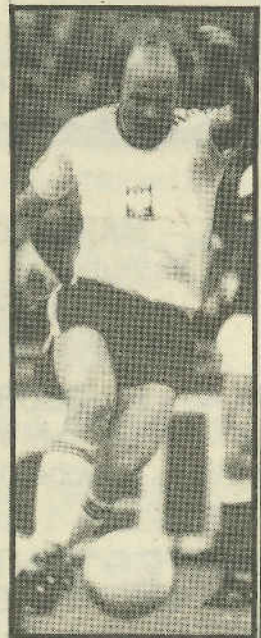
• Argentinian superclub River Plate who have recently sold some of their best players, including Passarella and Ramon Diaz, are now determined to rebuild their side. One of the players on their shopping list is Ricky Villa, now with Tottenham.

★ ★ ★

• Gate attendances in the Argentine first division fell from 1981's average of 8254 to 6577 in 1982 — and continue to drift downwards. Recently the takings of Boca Juniors were impounded to meet 14 court orders for unpaid bills.

MEXICO

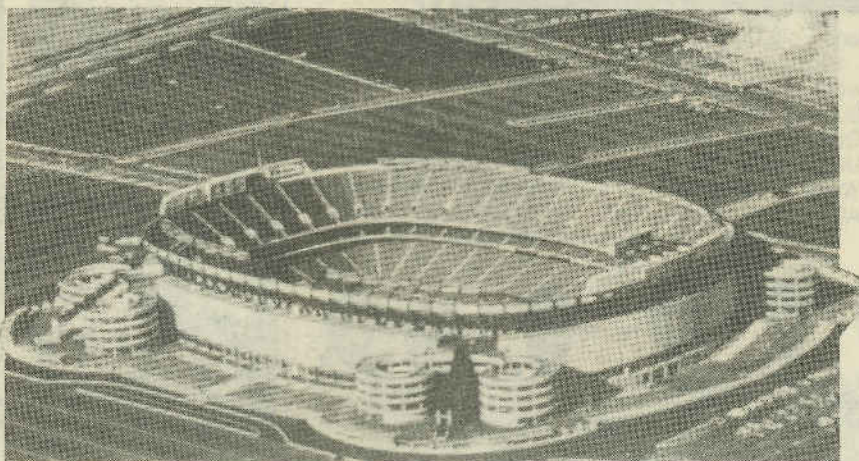
• In case you are wondering where he is shining now, that brilliant, balding Polish striker Gregorz Lato is freely scoring goals for his Mexican club Atlante.



Lato

FIFA

• Rene Courte, FIFA's assistant general secretary and publicity chief, has been sacked; he will finish up on January 31, 1984. "This is a shock to me," said the likeable Courte, "nobody gave a reason." Added Sepp Blatter, the secretary general: "The matter is closed."

No grounds
for U.S. hopes

The splendid Cosmos Stadium — unsuitable for World Cup soccer

The great American dream of staging the 1986 World Cup finals could well remain just that.

The reason is simple yet astonishing: the USA has no proper soccer stadiums.

The country which is supposed to have the best

sporting facilities in the world has 18 superb stadiums listed in its application to FIFA.

Three of these — Michigan in Detroit, Coliseum in Los Angeles and the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California — have 100,000 capacities.

But now the problems start.

ALL these stadiums were built for American football or baseball — and have the wrong dimensions for soccer.

Two of those listed, Silverdome in Detroit and Kingdome in Washington — are indoor arenas.

Perhaps the only one that comes close to the measurements of a soccer ground is the home of Cosmos, the Giants Stadium at Meadowland, New Jersey, just across the Hudson River from New York.

But even this is narrower than the regulation size.

Problem No. 2 is the surface.

Of the 18 "recommended" stadiums seven have synthetic surfaces — unacceptable by FIFA for World Cup games.

So the Americans will have to overcome this handicap before making a serious bid for the World Cup.

However, knowing the good old Yankee ingenuity, they are quite capable of extending the playing areas and laying down turf in no time if they get the nod from FIFA in Zurich.

YUGOSLAVIA

• February 5 will be the 25th anniversary of the Munich airport disaster which claimed the lives of eight Manchester United players, some officials and pressmen. The team was on its way home from Belgrade when the tragedy happened. Now in February or March Manchester United will return to Belgrade for a friendly match with Red Star, their 1958 opponents.

• Paul Breitner, 32, the brilliant Bayern and West German international star, will retire in May. His last match will be against Nurnberg. "Thirteen years in pro soccer is a long time," he says, "and I want to end my career at the top."

HUNGARY

• Lajos Poczik from the provincial club of ETO Gyor was the highest rated player in the Hungarian first division's "autumn" season, according to the Budapest daily Nepsport.

★ ★ ★

• Andras Torocsik, 28, former brilliant child prodigy of Hungarian soccer and now a permanent enigma despite his superb skills, hopes to get permission to play abroad from next year.

FRANCE

• According to rumors, the high-priced French star of the Italian Juventus, Michel Platini, could soon leave his Turin club and return home.

★ ★ ★

• Robert Herbin, one of the most successful and distinguished French coaches, has been suspended by the French Federation for his role in the current scandal concerning illegal payments to players. Herbin, of St Etienne, has taken the previously struggling club to the top of the French heap in his 10-year stint.

BELGIUM

• Belgium's Player of the Year for 1982 is the bearded Standard Liege fullback Eric Gerets, heading the poll ahead of two Anderlecht stars, Coeck and Lozano.

GERMANY

• The West German Football Association (DFB) plans to reduce its Bundesliga (first division) from 18 to 16 teams. This would cut the season back by four weeks.

★ ★ ★

Germans find
bargain star

Try to remember this name: Rudi Voller. It may come handy in the next few years.

He is the latest young West German sensation and predicted to be the worthy successor to the almost inimitable Gerd Muller.

Voller, 22, plays for the unfashionable Werder Bremen — and is the second top scorer in the Bundesliga at the halfway mark: in 13 games he has grabbed 10 valuable goals.

He was signed last year from the struggling 1860 Munchen, the once successful club now turned amateur.

Voller is only 176cm tall, weighs 71kg and is blessed with superb speed and an extraordinary reflex

in the goalmouth. He is also strong and aggressive.

The respectable German sports journal "Kicker" rates him as the second best inside striker in the country, after the great Rummenigge.

Germany's Player of the Year, Karlheinz Forster says:

"He is really deadly. If he gets one step ahead of you, you can't catch him with a jet."

The Italian AC Torino has also "discovered" Voller and have made an \$800,000 bid for him.

But Werder Bremen says Voller is not for sale. Not yet, anyway: in a season or two he could be worth a few million or stay on as the club's savior.

BRITAIN
CALLING

• English soccer has lost nearly half its crowds since 1946; their cinemas in the same period have lost 90 per cent of their patrons. The English — and others — are becoming a stay-at-home-race.

★ ★ ★

• Middlesbrough's midfielder Kevin Beattie is now recovering from his sixth knee operation, performed last November. He thinks he will be fit to start playing again next month — probably until his seventh visit to the surgery.

★ ★ ★

• Former Scotland international Frank McLintock has gone back to Queens Park Rangers as youth team coach. McLintock, however, will keep his pub and also his part-time job as BBC commentator.

★ ★ ★

• Former Eire striker Don Givens, 33, is playing for the Swiss club Neuchatel Xamax. He may return to Dublin in May, quit soccer and join his brother in the sportswear business.

★ ★ ★

• England star Bryan Robson claims his Manchester United team-mate Frank Stapleton could be the best striker in Europe — if only he were a bit more selfish.

★ ★ ★

• Pat Jennings, the brilliant Arsenal and Northern Ireland goalie, is rapidly approaching his 1,000th official match. His tally includes 55 games in the various European Cups and 95 'caps' for his country.

★ ★ ★

• Tottenham's little Argentinian Osvaldo Ardiles: "It's true, I did say that I'd never return to play in England. But conditions have changed and I was glad to come back. I never for a minute enjoyed my football in Paris."

★ ★ ★

• Both Manchester United and Liverpool are interested in Scottish international striker Alan Brazil. Ipswich demand \$1,300,000 but the two prospective buyers hope this will drop a bit as Ipswich urgently need \$1 million to pay for their new grandstand.

★ ★ ★

Malcolm Allison says English football lacks the glamor and flair it needs from top players.

Allison, now managing Middlesbrough, looks back on great characters like Francis Lee, George Best and Rodney Marsh and laments that managers, not players, now grab the headlines.

He says: "Among current players, you think of Trevor Brooking and Kevin Keegan but then you are left with the likes of Bryan Robson, Kenny Dalglish, Glenn Hoddle and Trevor Francis."

"They are outstanding players but they lack personality," added Allison.

★ ★ ★

Leighton James, many-times capped Welsh international, has been transferred to Sutherland by Swansea City. James was given a free transfer by Swansea.

★ ★ ★

English football has been shocked by a case of a player suing his club for alleged unfair dismissal.

The player is Joe Gallagher. His contract was torn up by Wolverhampton Wanderers last November.

Gallagher claims the contract was worth \$180,000 — and that's the figure he wants from the court.

He said: "My solicitor thinks I have a cast-iron case. It will go to court. Perhaps Wolves might find that civil law is different from soccer law."

★ ★ ★

Here's a name from the past. Charlie George, who has flitted from club to club in the past couple of years, hopes to settle in London — with Chelsea.

George has been training with Chelsea whose manager John Neal says: "He hasn't played a full game this season but he is coming along well. A fully fit player of his calibre would be a tremendous asset."

Charlie George is now 32.

TOUGH GUY GENTILE BLASTED BY VICTIMS

The Italian Press took exception to some very mild criticism by Trevor Francis regarding their "tough guy" defender Claudio Gentile.

In his recently published book, "The World To Play For," Francis, now with the Italian club Sampdoria of Genoa, says, et al:

"... Gentile... was totally let off for some of his clearly illegal challenges against Litkebarski..."

"... Gentile was earlier booked in the matches against Maradona and Zico..."

Those who saw Gentile in action last June and July will feel that Francis was far too timid in his criticism.

Gentile, in fact, should have been sent off in the match against Argentina where he committed at least a dozen hair-raising fouls.

The Italian Press rushed to Gentile's aid — and chided Trevor Francis, now earning his living in Italy, for daring to sound off at all.

However, almost all neutral observers strongly agree with Francis.

Maradona says: "I not only agree with Francis but thank him for giving an honest opinion."

"In our game last July, Gentile took the ball off me cleanly two or three times but dedicated the rest of the match to kicking me, insulting me, tugging my shirt and once, with the ball out of action, elbowing me in the face."

Argentina's manager **Luis Cesar Menotti:** "I counted Gentile foul Maradona 13 times and elbow him in the face in the 32nd minute."

"One of the Laws of the

game says repeated infringements should be punished with a caution and then, if necessary, with expulsion.

"Italy's play verged on violence throughout our match."

Brazilian manager **Tele Santana:** "Football should not tolerate performances like Gentile's."

An Italian soccer writer,

CLUB RECORD

A little known Hungarian defender **Gyorgy Szabo, 40**, is claimed to hold the world record for the number of official matches in the same club.

Szabo has played 507 matches for the provincial club **Tatabanya** — and is still active there.

Others with long club records:

Facchetti (Inter Milan) 477, **Kuna** (Trnava) 424, **Overath** (FC Koln) 409.

Some have passed Szabo's tally — but not with one club.

Italian goalie **Albertosi** played 535 games in the first division with **Fiorentina**, **Cagliari** and **AC Milan** (before being suspended for three years in 1980 for corruption), another Italian **Rivera** has collected 527 with **Alessandria** and **Milan**, the German **Neuberger** had 520 with three clubs, the Italian goalie **Zoff** also had 520 with four clubs and **Bekkenbauer** 424 games with **Bayern** and **Hamburg**.

Massimo della Bergola:

"As an Italian, I'm ashamed to admit it, but Gentile's handling of Maradona was a strain on my World Cup. I would have shown him the red

card..."

And what about the culprit himself, the most ungentle Gentile?

"Football is not for ballerinas, it's a man's game," he says unrepentantly.



Diego Maradona

World Cup committee

FIFA has announced its World Cup Organising Committee for 1986.

It is headed — for the fourth time since 1974 — by the West German **Willie Neuberger**.

Representatives of all regional Confederations are on the Committee — except Oceania.



European Football Championship 1982-1984

Fixture List of the Preliminary Round

Group 1

(Belgium, German Democratic Republic, Scotland, Switzerland)

| | | |
|------------|--|-----|
| 6. 10. 82 | Belgium - Switzerland | 3-0 |
| 13. 10. 82 | Scotland - German Democratic Republic | 2-0 |
| 17. 11. 82 | Switzerland - Scotland | 2-0 |
| 15. 12. 82 | Belgium - Scotland | 3-2 |
| 30. 3. 83 | Scotland - Switzerland | |
| 30. 3. 83 | German Democratic Republic - Belgium | |
| 27. 4. 83 | Belgium - German Democratic Republic | |
| 14. 5. 83 | Switzerland - German Democratic Republic | |
| 12. 10. 83 | Scotland - Belgium | |
| 12. 10. 83 | German Democratic Republic - Switzerland | |
| 9. 11. 83 | Switzerland - Belgium | |
| 16. 11. 83 | German Democratic Republic - Scotland | |

Group 2

(Poland, USSR, Portugal, Finland)

| | | |
|------------|--------------------|-----|
| 8. 9. 82 | Finland - Poland | 2-3 |
| 22. 9. 82 | Finland - Portugal | 0-2 |
| 10. 10. 82 | Portugal - Poland | 2-1 |
| 13. 10. 82 | USSR - Finland | 2-0 |
| 17. 4. 83 | Poland - Finland | |
| 27. 4. 83 | USSR - Portugal | |
| 22. 5. 83 | Poland - USSR | |
| 1. 6. 83 | Finland - USSR | |
| 21. 9. 83 | Portugal - Finland | |
| 9. 10. 83 | USSR - Poland | |
| 28. 10. 83 | Poland - Portugal | |
| 13. 11. 83 | Portugal - USSR | |

Group 3

(England, Hungary, Greece, Denmark, Luxembourg)

| | | |
|------------|----------------------|-----|
| 22. 9. 82 | Denmark - England | 2-2 |
| 9. 10. 82 | Luxembourg - Greece | 0-2 |
| 10. 11. 82 | Luxembourg - Denmark | 1-2 |
| 17. 11. 82 | Greece - England | 0-3 |
| 15. 12. 82 | England - Luxembourg | 9-0 |
| 27. 3. 83 | Luxembourg - Hungary | |
| 30. 3. 83 | England - Greece | |
| 16. 4. 83 | Hungary - Luxembourg | |
| 27. 4. 83 | England - Hungary | |
| 27. 4. 83 | Denmark - Greece | |
| 15. 5. 83 | Hungary - Greece | |
| 1. 6. 83 | Denmark - Hungary | |
| 21. 9. 83 | England - Denmark | |
| 12. 10. 83 | Hungary - England | |
| 12. 10. 83 | Denmark - Luxembourg | |
| 26. 10. 83 | Hungary - Denmark | |
| 16. 11. 83 | Greece - Luxembourg | |
| 16. 11. 83 | Luxembourg - Denmark | |
| 3. 12. 83 | Greece - Hungary | |
| 14. 12. 83 | Greece - Luxembourg | |

Group 4

(Yugoslavia, Wales, Bulgaria, Norway)

| | | |
|------------|-----------------------|-----|
| 22. 9. 82 | Wales - Norway | 1-0 |
| 13. 10. 82 | Norway - Yugoslavia | 3-1 |
| 27. 10. 82 | Bulgaria - Norway | 2-2 |
| 17. 11. 82 | Bulgaria - Yugoslavia | 0-1 |
| 15. 12. 82 | Yugoslavia - Wales | 4-4 |
| 27. 4. 83 | Wales - Bulgaria | |
| 7. 9. 83 | Norway - Bulgaria | |
| 21. 9. 83 | Norway - Wales | |
| 12. 10. 83 | Yugoslavia - Norway | |
| 16. 11. 83 | Bulgaria - Wales | |
| 14. 12. 83 | Wales - Yugoslavia | |
| 21. 12. 83 | Yugoslavia - Bulgaria | |

Group 5

(Italy, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Sweden, Cyprus)

| | | |
|------------|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. 5. 82 | Rumania - Cyprus | 3-1 |
| 8. 9. 82 | Rumania - Sweden | 2-0 |
| 6. 10. 82 | Czechoslovakia - Sweden | 2-2 |
| 13. 11. 82 | Italy - Czechoslovakia | 2-2 |
| 13. 11. 82 | Cyprus - Sweden | 0-1 |
| 4. 12. 82 | Italy - Rumania | 0-0 |
| 12. 2. 83 | Cyprus - Italy | |
| 27. 3. 83 | Cyprus - Czechoslovakia | |
| 16. 4. 83 | Rumania - Italy | |
| 16. 4. 83 | Czechoslovakia - Cyprus | |
| 15. 5. 83 | Sweden - Cyprus | |
| 15. 5. 83 | Rumania - Czechoslovakia | |
| 26. 5. 83 | Sweden - Italy | |
| 9. 6. 83 | Sweden - Rumania | |
| 21. 9. 83 | Sweden - Czechoslovakia | |
| 15. 10. 83 | Italy - Sweden | |
| 12. 11. 83 | Cyprus - Rumania | |
| 16. 11. 83 | Czechoslovakia - Italy | |
| 30. 11. 83 | Czechoslovakia - Rumania | |
| 22. 12. 83 | Italy - Cyprus | |

Group 6

(FRG, Austria, Northern Ireland, Turkey, Albania)

| | | |
|------------|----------------------------|-----|
| 22. 9. 82 | Austria - Albania | 5-0 |
| 13. 10. 82 | Austria - Northern Ireland | 2-0 |
| 27. 10. 82 | Turkey - Albania | 1-0 |
| 17. 11. 82 | Northern Ireland - FRG | 1-0 |
| 17. 11. 82 | Austria - Turkey | 4-0 |
| 15. 12. 82 | Albania - Northern Ireland | 0-0 |
| 30. 3. 83 | Northern Ireland - Turkey | |
| 30. 3. 83 | Albania - FRG | |
| 23. 4. 83 | Turkey - FRG | |
| 27. 4. 83 | Austria - FRG | |
| 27. 4. 83 | Northern Ireland - Albania | |
| 12. 5. 83 | Albania - Turkey | |
| 8. 6. 83 | Albania - Austria | |
| 21. 9. 83 | Northern Ireland - Austria | |
| 5. 10. 83 | FRG - Austria | |
| 12. 10. 83 | Turkey - Northern Ireland | |
| 26. 10. 83 | FRG - Turkey | |
| 16. 11. 83 | FRG - Northern Ireland | |
| 16. 11. 83 | Turkey - Austria | |
| 20. 11. 83 | FRG - Albania | |

Group 7

(Spain, Netherlands, Republic of Ireland, Iceland, Malta)

| | | |
|------------|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 5. 6. 82 | Malta - Iceland | 2-1 |
| 1. 9. 82 | Iceland - Netherlands | 1-1 |
| 22. 9. 82 | Netherlands - Republic of Ireland | 2-1 |
| 13. 10. 82 | Republic of Ireland - Iceland | 2-0 |
| 27. 10. 82 | Spain - Iceland | 1-0 |
| 17. 11. 82 | Republic of Ireland - Spain | 3-3 |
| 19. 12. 82 | Malta - Netherlands | 0-6 |
| 16. 2. 83 | Spain - Netherlands | |
| 30. 3. 83 | Malta - Republic of Ireland | |
| 27. 4. 83 | Spain - Republic of Ireland | |
| 15. 5. 83 | Malta - Spain | |
| 29. 5. 83 | Iceland - Spain | |
| 5. 6. 83 | Iceland - Malta | |
| 7. 9. 83 | Netherlands - Iceland | |
| 21. 9. 83 | Iceland - Republic of Ireland | |
| 12. 10. 83 | Republic of Ireland - Netherlands | |
| 16. 11. 83 | Netherlands - Spain | |
| 16. 11. 83 | Republic of Ireland - Malta | |
| 17. 12. 83 | Netherlands - Malta | |
| 21. 12. 83 | Spain - Malta | |

As organizers of the Final Tournament France are exempt from the preliminary competition.

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Air of optimism for Kiwi clash

By Keith Gilmour

Socceroo skipper John Kosmina believes his national team will be well prepared and fit enough to transfer the pressure back on to the New Zealanders in the coming internationals.

The Kiwi's path of the 1982 World Cup final series in Spain has been well chronicled, as has Australia's dismal failures. Kosmina remembers well the 3-3 draw in Auckland in 1981.

"Probably we were technically the better side, but other problems intervened," he says.

"Then there was the 3-2 loss in Sydney that gave our opponents the impetus to take them to the finals," he said.

He sees New Zealand's difficulty as the disbandment of their squad, and the loss of some of their top performers to Australian club football.

At the same time they surely learnt more in Spain, where they battled gamely but without success.

It was fortunate for Australia that the opportunity cropped up to join in the Merlion Tournament in Singapore, as even that saw the developing generation of 'Roos putting their game together successfully under the control of a resourceful Les Scheinflug.

Vice-captain Tony Henderson has a refreshing outlook. He is absolutely delighted with the emergence of midfielders of the

class of Gary Byrne, Peter Katholos and Peter Raskopoulos.

Australia's first game is in Auckland on February 22, followed by the return game at Olympic Park Melbourne on Sunday, February 27.

Squad of 21

Scheinflug and his assistant Raul Blanco will work the squad in Sydney from February 9 until they leave for New Zealand on February 19.

New Zealand's cricketers have, in recent seasons, posed a direct threat to Australia and fortunately for trans-Tasman sport the soccer picture has also become far healthier than ever before.

Playing against good honest practitioners of the Steve Sumner, Steve Wooddin and Ricky Herbert mould is creating a tradition that can only benefit the sport.

Scheinflug has come out with a 21-man squad which will be cut back to 18 in the course of the training camp.

Blacktown's Bruce James and Rob Wheatley have both retained their places, and Canberra's Tony Brennan has another chance to show his wares.



Tony Brennan, one of the strikers in the Australian squad.

The team will not be easy to select but the leading contenders are Crook for goal; Davidson, Henderson, Blair and Niven in defence; Katholos, Raskopoulos and Byrne for midfield; O'Connor, Kosmina and Cole or Mitchell in the front.

Tony Brennan, Gary Byrne, George Christopoulos, Gary Cole, Martyn Crook, Alan Davidson, Tony Henderson, Bruce James, Mark Jankovics, Peter Katholos, John Kosmina, David Mitchell, Allan Niven, Phil O'Connor, Peter Raskopoulos, David Ratcliffe, Bobby Russell, Marshall Soper, Robert Wheatley.

The full squad reads: Arno Bertogna, Steve Blair,

KORITAR MAKES QUIET EXIT

Former Hungarian 'B' international Lajos Koritar returned to Budapest last Saturday.

The much heralded St. George import of 1982 never fulfilled the high hopes attached to his signing.

He played only a handful of matches in the first team and caught the eye only once or twice.

"Koritar couldn't adapt himself to our faster and more physical game," says Saints manager Frank Arok.

And that's really sad: Koritar played 10 years with the leading Budapest club MTK.

"He was also struggling under our heavy training schedules," says Arok. "He had tremendous skills but no pace and bite. And without those you can't survive in Australian soccer."

Soccer president Les Bordacs is philosophical.

"We had to slash our budget and Koritar fitted the bill nicely. His early departure for home saves us over \$10,000 in contract money."

"We negotiated a settlement with him and he was happy."

Koritar — and few will know this — was one of the nine players involved in the only official strike in Hungarian soccer.

In 1972 nine MTK players declared they wouldn't play under their coach Tibor Palicsko.

The coach stayed — but some players received long suspensions.

Koritar was out for a few months, then continued with MTK.

Frank Arok hasn't been too lucky with some of his recent imports.

Last year the equally highly rated Laszlo Lorinc was sent home after having not even given a glimpse of his recognised class.

FROM THE PRESS BOX

The world has had its fair share of great travel writers starting with the ancient Greeks and Romans up to the present time.

They have covered exotic journeys into the unknown, man's exploits in hostile surrounds, strange tribal customs and, more recently, our exploration of space.

Their subject matters and styles vary from starry-eyed innocence to blase sophistication.

One thing never changes, however. And that is our soccer tour reports.

By some curious coincidence, every time our soccer teams venture abroad they find themselves in the most bizarre situations.

Soccer tour reports make you think twice about the joys of travel. Indeed, one is compelled to admire the courage and indomitable spirit of those colleagues who, brushing off discomforts, threats and dangers, still accept these assignments, albeit reluctantly.

FANS OR MOBS?

Clearly feeling the need to establish their own patriotic sentiments, some reporters resort to Orwellian Doublethink methods when writing about spectators.

OURS are enthusiastic, cheerful and movingly behind the team with their chanting and clapping. So they're OK.

THEIRS are screaming, yelling mobs demanding blood (ours), test cases for a psychiatrist. They are rabble. They also smell of garlic.

Our teams never play badly — they may be unlucky on occasions when they lose. The opponents never really deserve their win — even a 5-0 is a fluke. A big fluke but a fluke nevertheless.

Still, the most constant tour laments one can hear repeatedly is — why was the tour necessary at all?

For months players, officials and reporters strive, sweat or haggle to make the travelling party, presumably to have an interesting journey and some fun.

Yet the moment they leave these safe shores, they accuse FIFA of vile crimes in dragging them away from their beloved.

Why, they ask, couldn't the tournament be held right here, why in a faraway, exotic, fascinating place which they are now forced to visit at no cost to them?

Who would really prefer to roam the streets of Los Angeles, Acapulco, San Jose and other dreadful places when he could take it easy in romantic Rockdale, Dulwich Hill or Green Gully?

So as the present tournament begins to unfold in San Jose, for our Young Socceroos, let us give a thought to those colleagues who have brought the supreme sacrifice of risking life and limb in order to keep you, the reader, informed.

A. Dettre.

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